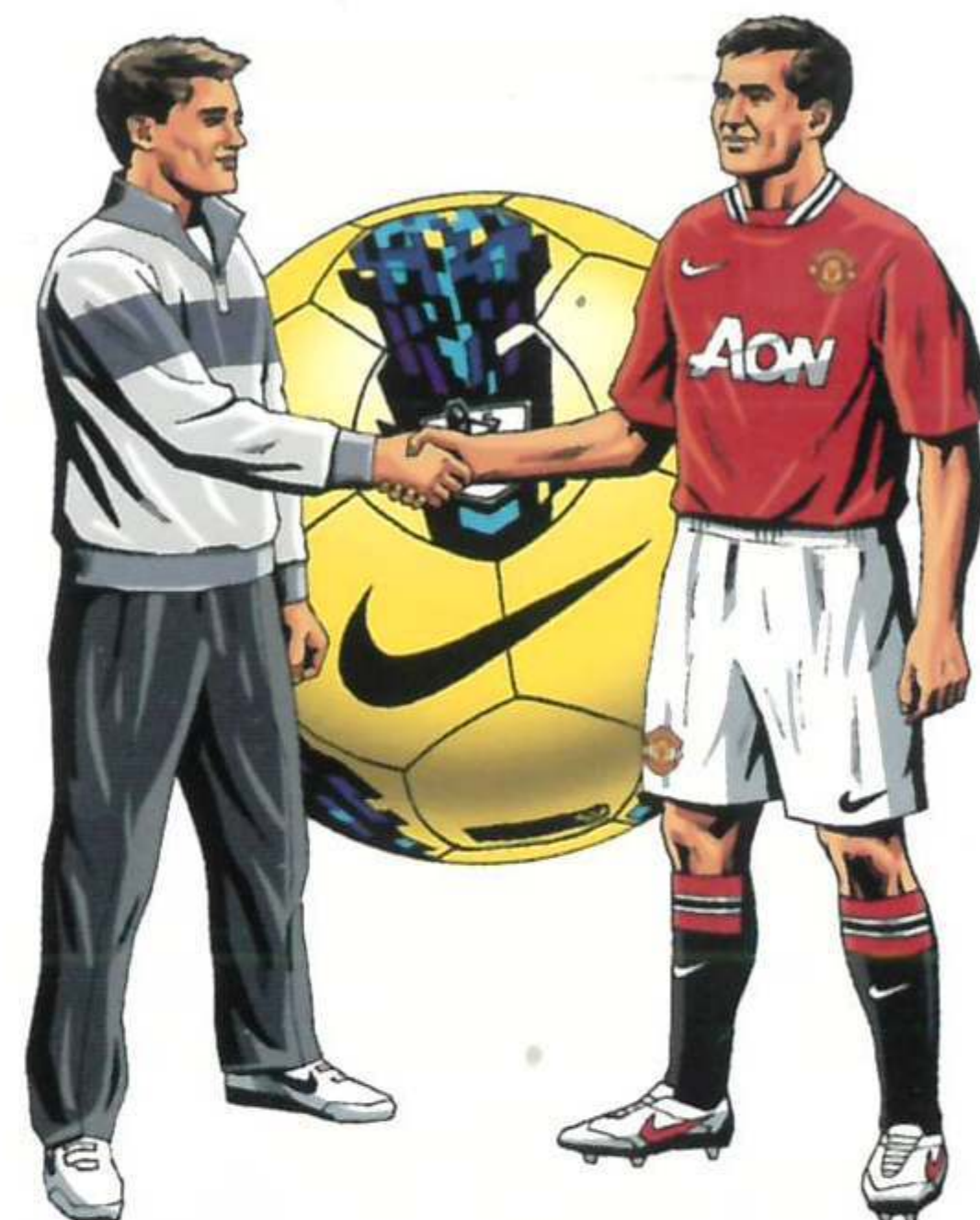




# United Review

CHAMP19NS

Official matchday programme £3  
2011/12 Season Volume 73 Issue 15



v Bolton Wanderers 14.01.12

3pm

## RED PRIDE

**Rooney's brace set  
up derby cup victory;**  
now for the quest  
to retain the title

Report and reaction  
to the win at City

**Look  
who's  
back!**

Sir Alex on Scholesy's  
surprise return



### Inside today's issue

- Chris Smalling  
interview
- Title years: 1997
- Michael Carrick:  
our midfield lynchpin
- Pull-out posters,  
Crerand and more



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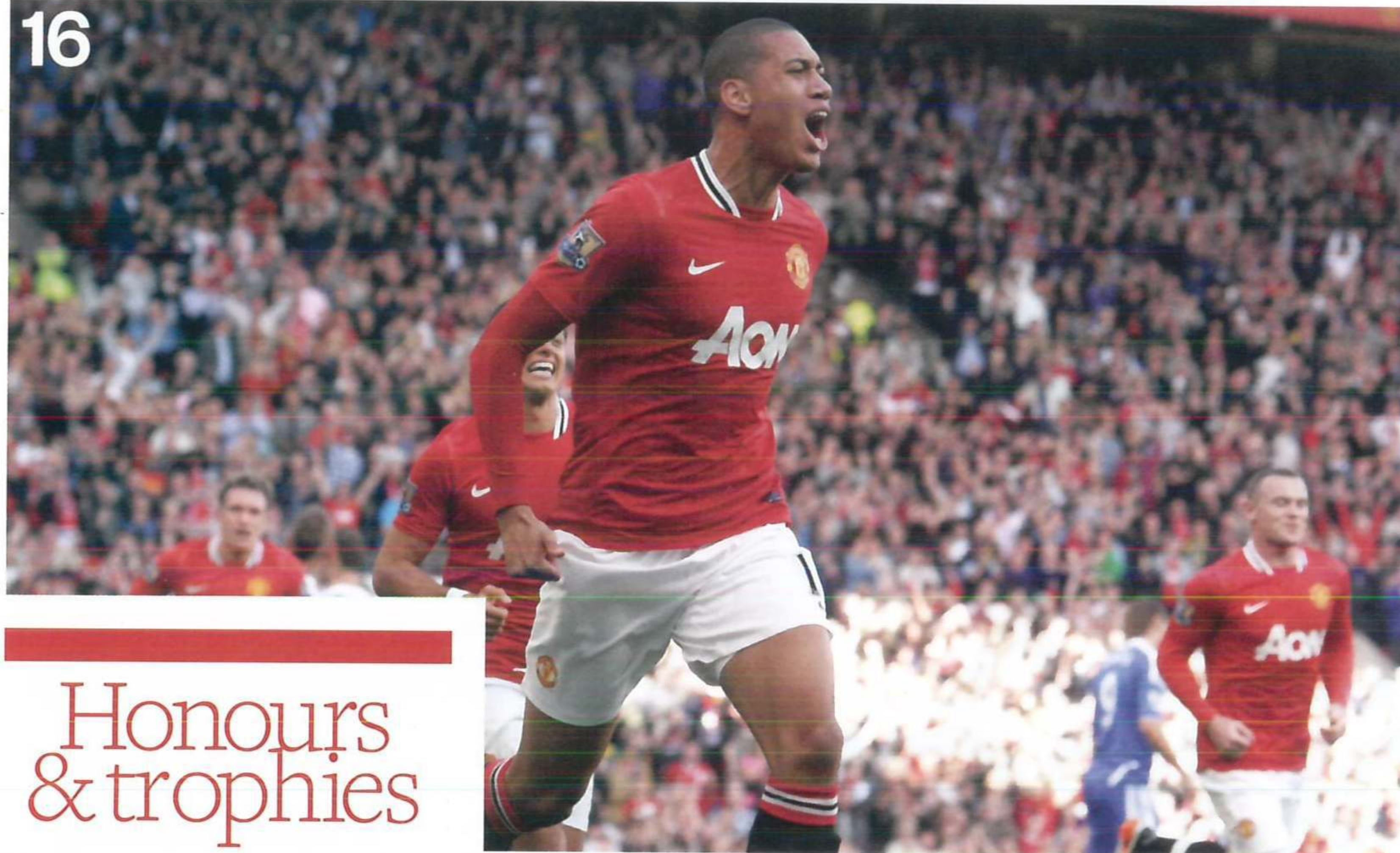


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16



## Honours & trophies

**FIFA Club World Cup** 2008  
**Inter-Continental Cup** 1999  
**European Champion Clubs' Cup** 1968, 1999, 2008  
**European Cup Winners' Cup** 1991  
**FA Premier League** 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011  
**Football League Division One** 1908, 1911, 1952, 1956, 1957, 1965, 1967  
**Football League Division Two** 1936, 1975  
**FA Challenge Cup** 1909, 1948, 1963, 1977, 1983, 1985, 1990, 1994, 1996, 1999, 2004  
**Football League Cup** 1992, 2006, 2009, 2010  
**UEFA Super Cup** 1991  
**FA Charity/Community Shield** 1908, 1911, 1952, 1956, 1957, 1983, 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 2003, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011  
**Joint Holders** 1965, 1967, 1977, 1990  
**FA Youth Cup** 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1964, 1992, 1995, 2003, 2011

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## TODAY'S OFFICIALS

Referee: Peter Walton  
 Assistants: Scott Ledger, Ceri Richards  
 Fourth official: Stuart Attwell



### REFFING THE REDS

Northamptonshire-based whistler Walton has officiated at two United matches so far this season – the 1-1 draw at Stoke and the League Cup win over Aldershot.



28



38



49





# SIR ALEX FERGUSON

## ***This week:***

- *Our fans have shown us the way*
- *Disappointing display at Newcastle*
- *Fantastic response at the Etihad*
- *Bolton offer another challenge as we continue the title fight*



Hearing our fans singing the team's name right up to the final whistle at St James' Park, despite their obvious disappointment, showed that they're

certainly up for this title fight.

And after losing first to Blackburn and then at Newcastle to give Manchester City a three-point advantage at the top of the Premier League, we all need to show that kind of spirit.

I thought our support at Newcastle was absolutely fantastic and it was not for the want of trying on their part that we came home on the back of a three-goal defeat. The supporters still managed to send out exactly the right message, that we are all in this together and that they were prepared to help us.

They were right behind us again for the next match when we faced the challenge of playing our big rivals Manchester City at the Etihad Stadium.

The togetherness was certainly there with our team raising themselves magnificently and the fans doing the same to get us through with a 3-2 win to the fourth round and a tie against Liverpool in a fortnight's time.

The Cup is certainly providing us with some tough ties this time around, both drawn away and

against two of the leading teams who also happen to be our fiercest rivals.

Although winning at City didn't close the points gap in the Premier League, it did nevertheless give us a terrific boost following those back-to-back defeats. I was delighted with the response of the players, especially in the first half, when we played some super football with two goals from Wayne Rooney and one from Danny Welbeck.

I wasn't so pleased with the second half. We should have been home and dry but we got careless, repeatedly losing possession against City's 10 men to let them back into the game.

The dismissal of Vincent Kompany undoubtedly had a bearing on the result but it was a two-footed tackle that deserved to be punished. Nani was fortunate to escape injury so no apologies from our camp on that one.

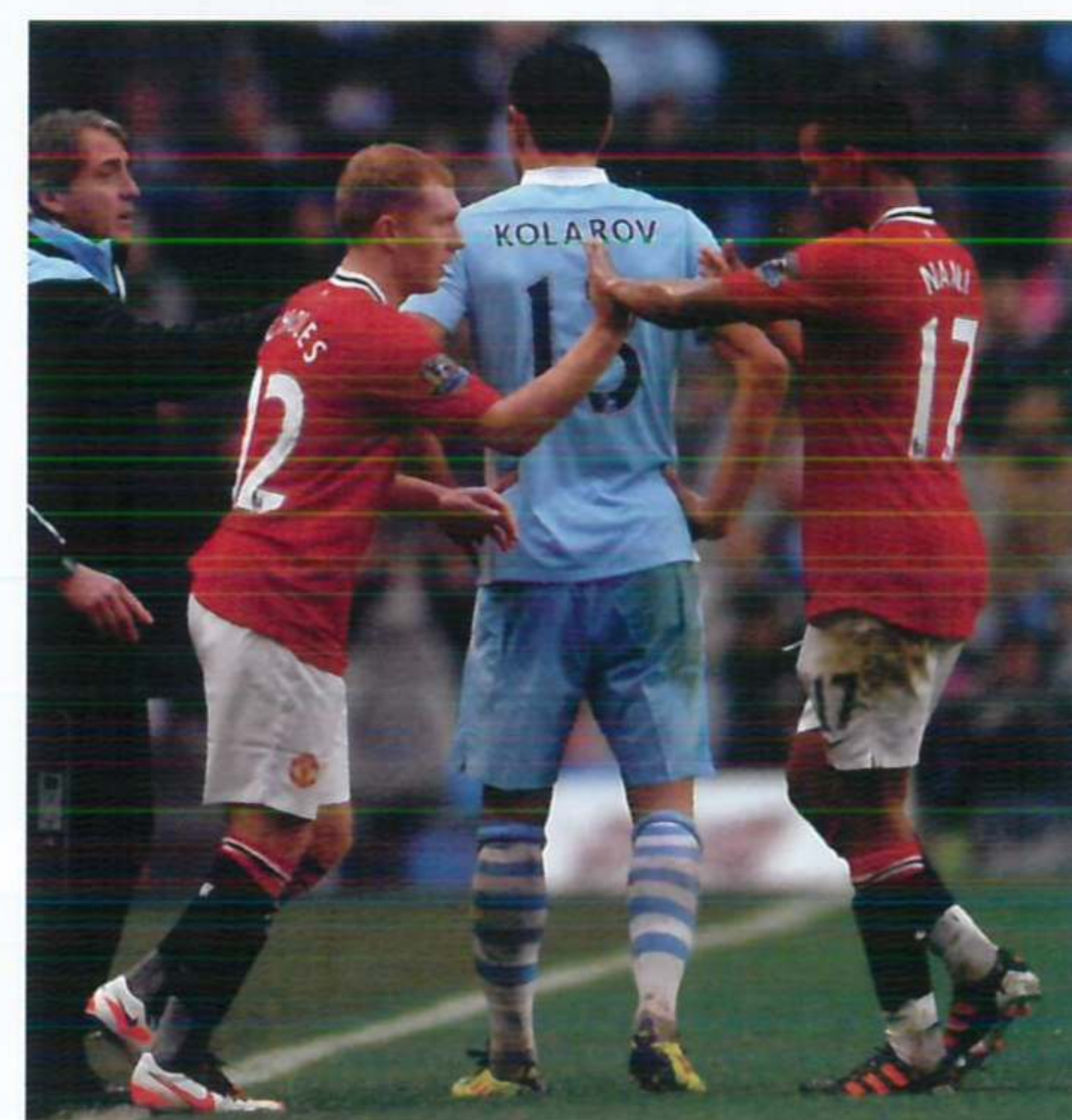
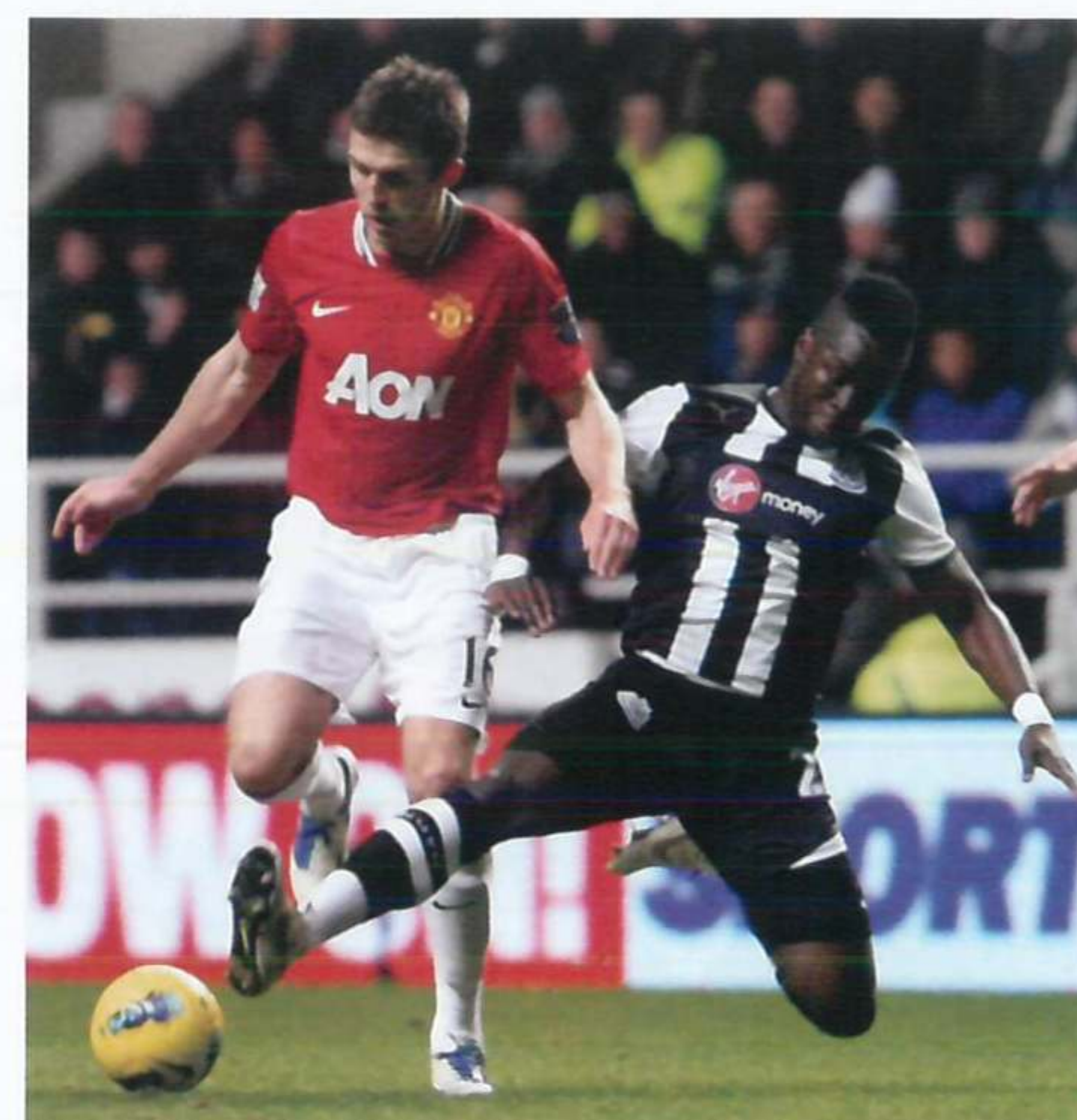
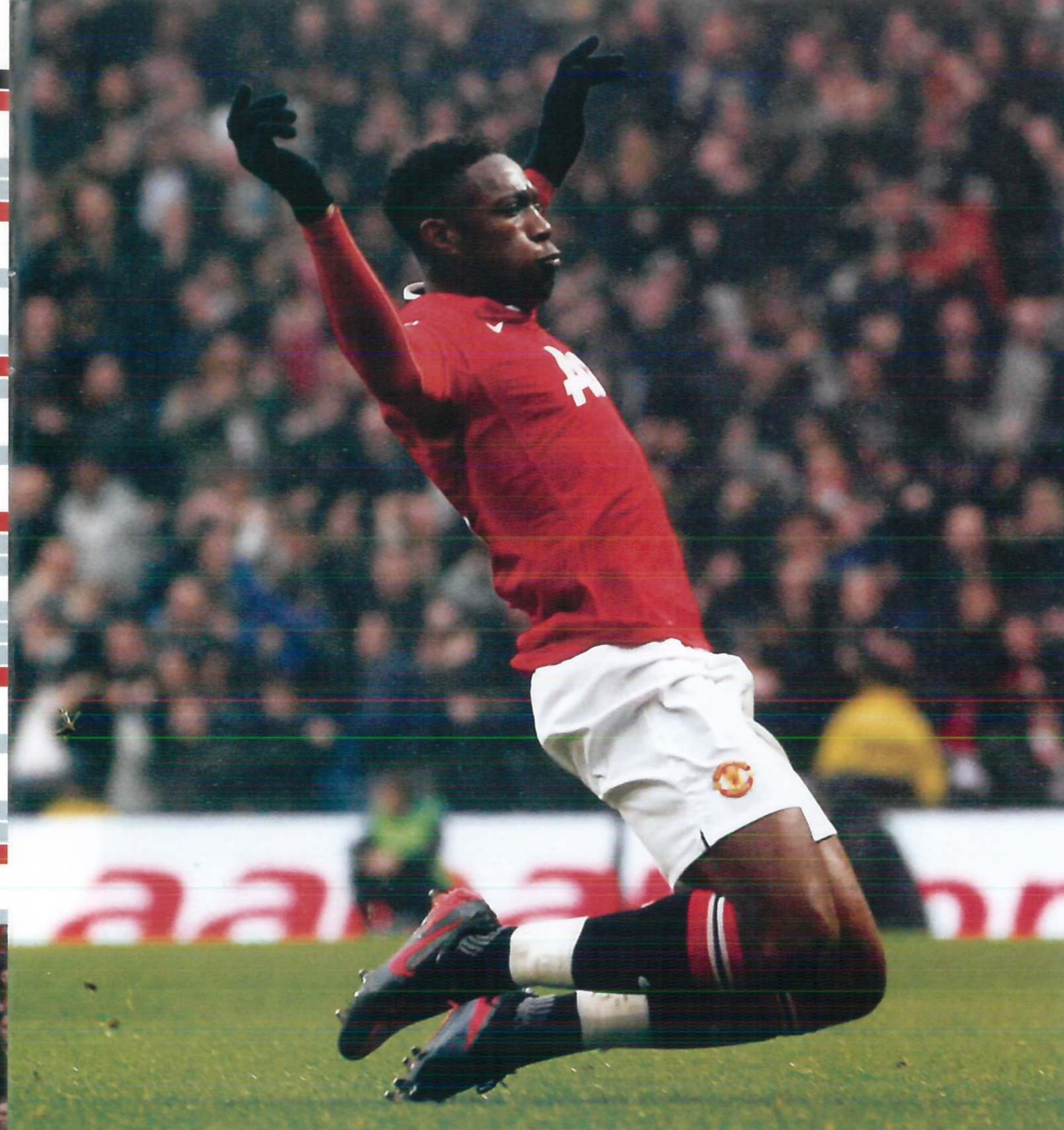
On a happier note, it was a pleasure to see Paul Scholes in action again after coming on as a substitute to help us through our injury problems. Having reversed his decision to retire, he is a terrific addition to our squad. We stepped up his training in the last few weeks and he started to take part in first-team sessions during the week. The players were delighted to see him back, and I know the fans feel the same way.

It has been a difficult period for us, especially in midfield. Losing Darren Fletcher, Anderson and Tom Cleverley has been a big loss on top of being without Chris Smalling, Jonny Evans and Ashley Young. We coped with it and even managed those five-goal wins against Fulham and Wigan, but we were very patched up in midfield against Blackburn and we had a bad day.

We rallied in the second half, when Dimitar Berbatov scored twice to level the game. I thought the momentum would carry us through for a late winner, but Blackburn's third goal killed us.

I expected us to put things right when we went up to Newcastle only to lose again. We started well but their keeper made a good save from Nani and we had a good chance for Wayne Rooney only for the chance to get away from him. If we had got





one of those I think we would have gone on to win. As it was, Newcastle quickly came up with a fantastic goal from Demba Ba and a great free-kick from Yohan Cabaye.

Newcastle were inspired on the day. Their goals got their fans going. They became aggressive and got stuck into us. You have to give their goalscorers credit. They were wonder goals that put their team in the driving seat. They gave a lot of fouls away, but they were committed and showed great tenacity.

We had some good possession and chances, but you have got to take them, especially away from home, and we didn't.

We paid for it and in fact didn't play well enough to win the game. Their third goal, an unfortunate own-goal from our point of view, summed up the whole night for us. I take nothing away from Newcastle, though, they fought hard and deserved their victory. It wasn't a time to panic. I always felt we had the experience and the patience to handle a difficult period and come out of it. We did, too.

I'm sure many people were surprised to see Paul Scholes on the bench for the City game. But it wasn't really a gamble because he has never

stopped training, working with the Reserves, and I knew he was fit enough, as I think he demonstrated when we closed the game down to win 3-2. It was important to win for the sake of our confidence and also for our followers who, as I say, have been right behind us.

I frequently stress the importance of our history and experience but you cannot depend on past achievements to win trophies. It's important we get our fingers out and perform in every game.

Now we turn back to the Premier League as we welcome Bolton to Old Trafford, a game we also need to win. We know we will be in for another hard one. Bolton are involved in a tough fight to keep clear of relegation and the problem for us is that their results are better away from home, winning three away league games compared with only one on their own ground. They may be near the foot of the table, but Blackburn were bottom when we played them, so there is no way now that we can take anything for granted. We have never shown disrespect to the teams below us in the table.

Nice though the Cup is, we are now back to the nitty-gritty of the League and our objective must be

to take at least our first-half form against City out onto the pitch today.

No excuses now. We have got some of our injured players back and others are not far from returning. It will make a difference as we strive to put City under the kind of pressure in the League that we put them under in the Cup last week.

Keep up the good work, fans, because as I said at the beginning, we are all in this together and the fight is still on! Enjoy the game.



*Alex Ferguson*

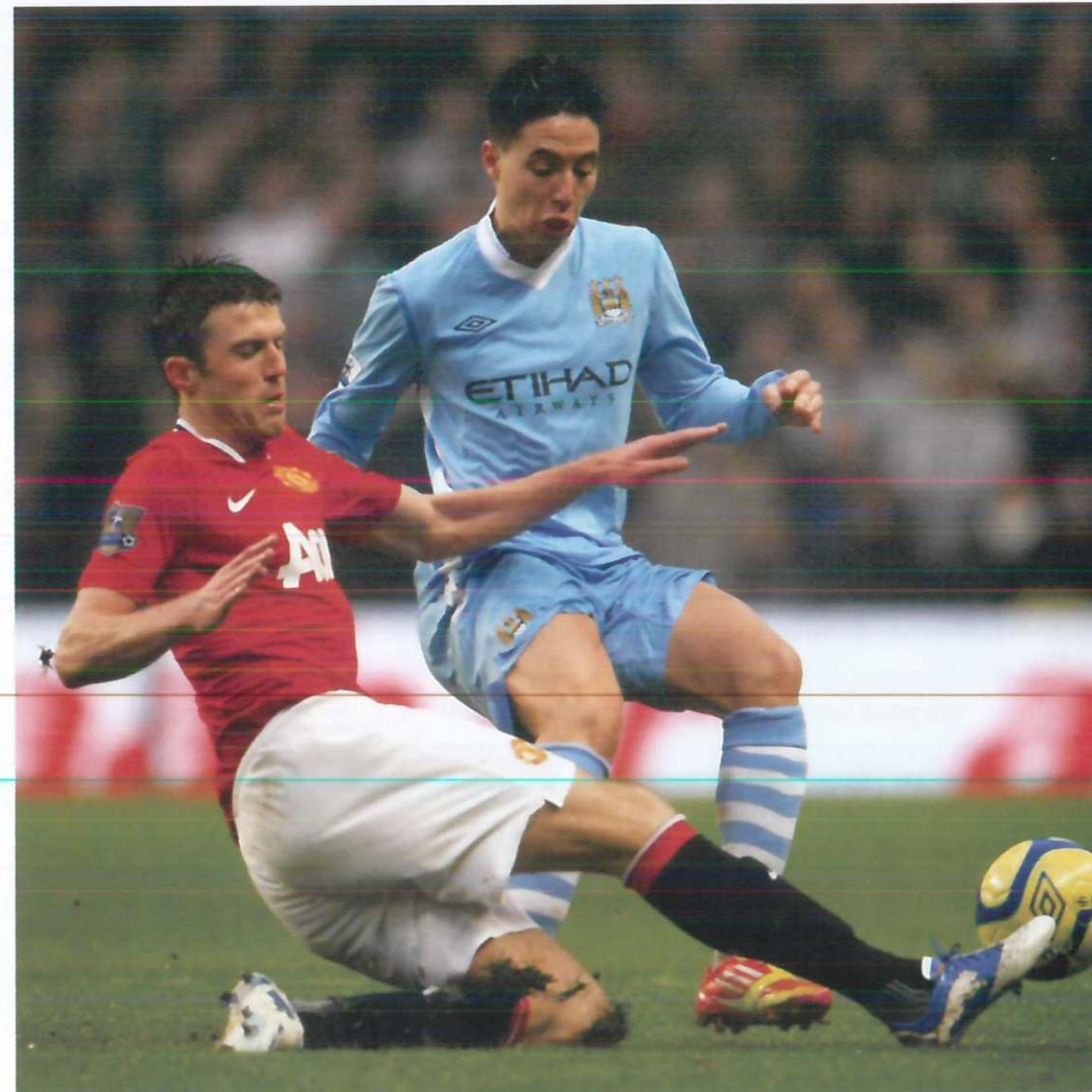
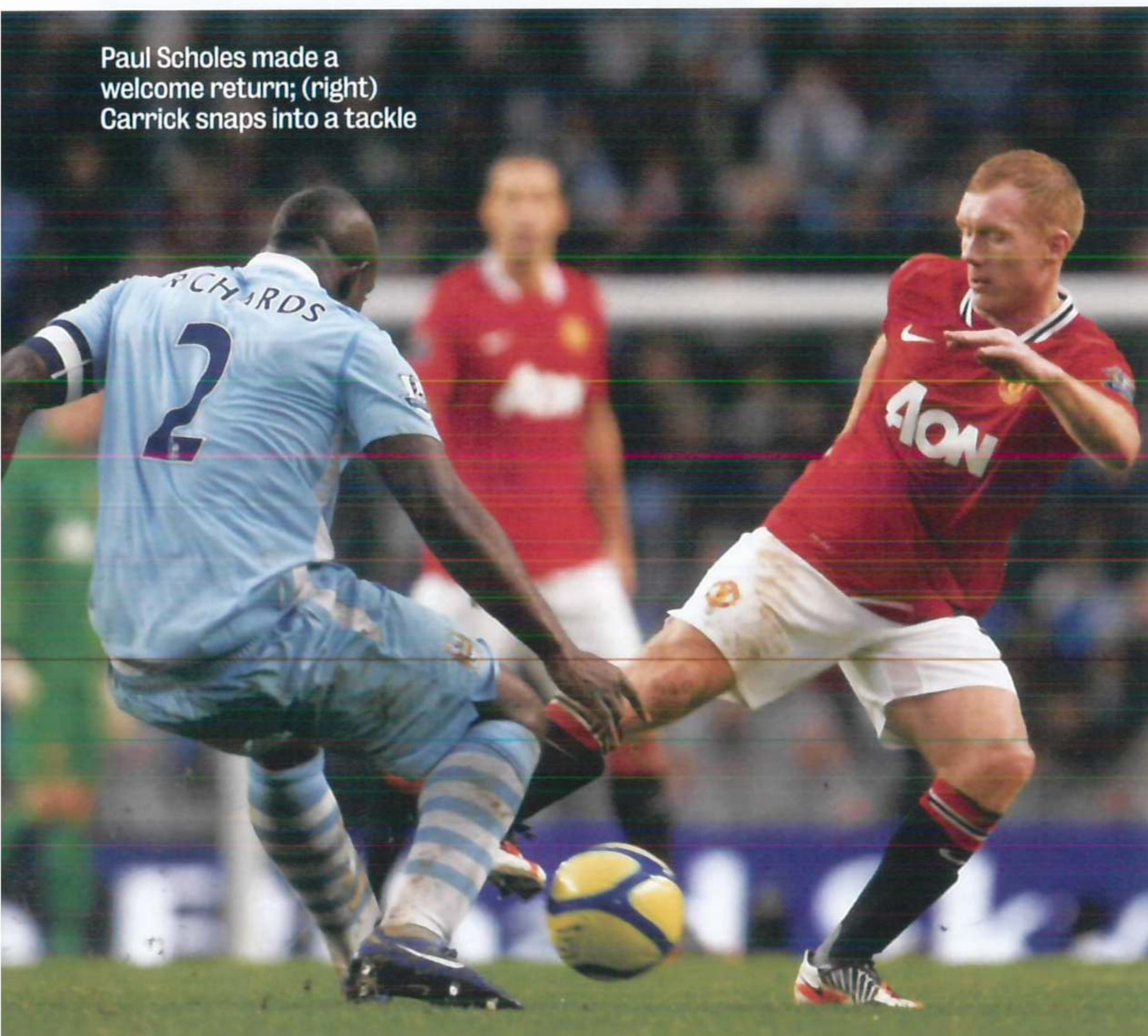


## Last match

Welbeck is swamped  
by team-mates after  
putting United 2-0 up



Paul Scholes made a  
welcome return; (right)  
Carrick snaps into a tackle







Rooney was in imperious form and weighed in with two headed goals

**“We scrambled away with a victory... we should have battered them”**  
**Sir Alex Ferguson**

The FA Cup third round | 8 January 2012 | Etihad Stadium | Kick-off: 1pm | Attendance: 46,808

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| <b>Manchester City</b>    | <b>2</b> |
| Kolarov 48, Aguero 65     |          |
| <b>Manchester United</b>  | <b>3</b> |
| Rooney 10, 40, Welbeck 30 |          |

**Manchester City**  
 Pantilimon; Richards, Kompany ■, Lescott, Kolarov; Johnson (Zabaleta 46), De Jong, Milner, Silva (Savic 46), Nasri (Hargreaves 82); Aguero  
**Subs not used:** Hart, Clichy, Suarez, Razak

**Manchester United**  
 Lindegaard; Jones, Smalling, Ferdinand ■, Evra ■; Valencia, Carrick, Giggs, Nani ■ (Scholes 59); Rooney, Welbeck ■ (Anderson 75)  
**Subs not used:** De Gea, Evans, Rafael, Park, Hernandez

## The Reds raced into a 3-0 lead then withstood City's spirited fightback to win a pulsating FA Cup encounter

United knocked out the holders in an absorbing third-round derby as Paul Scholes came out of retirement to grace the red shirt once again. A stunning first-half display enabled the Reds to silence the home fans with three goals and, although Manchester City's 10 men made a fight of it after the break, Sir Alex's side progressed at the expense of our cross-city neighbours.

After soaking up some early pressure, the Reds went ahead from the first attack with any real intent. Wayne Rooney moved the ball wide to Antonio Valencia and raced into the box in time to meet the cross with a determined header that crashed in off the bar. Cue wild celebrations from scorer and team-mates, plus 5,700 visiting fans inside the Etihad.

Two minutes later, City skipper Vincent Kompany slid in with a

two-footed challenge on Nani that won the ball but was deemed illegal by referee Chris Foy, who went straight to his pocket and brandished a red card.

United hungrily took advantage of the extra man. Some neat play by Nani and Patrice Evra carved open the defence and, after the ball bounced off Samir Nasri, Danny



Welbeck twisted to curl a sensational volley wide of Costel Pantilimon. It was a quick-witted moment of sheer magic from the local lad, whose performance was surely one of his best since breaking into the first team.

Although Sergio Aguero had tested Anders Lindegaard's reflexes, the pressure continued to come at the other end and Welbeck latched onto a Ryan Giggs pass, only to be sent crashing to the deck by Aleksandar Kolarov's late challenge. It was a clear penalty but Rooney's firmly hit spot-kick was pushed out by giant keeper Pantilimon, only for the striker to head home the rebound gleefully.

Welbeck was unlucky not to convert a dangerous cross by Valencia before the break, after which Roberto Mancini made a double substitution in order to bring some stability to his side, with defenders Stefan Savic and

### Shots on target

Man City 6

United 6

### Shots off target

Man City 1

United 6

### Possession

Man City 50%

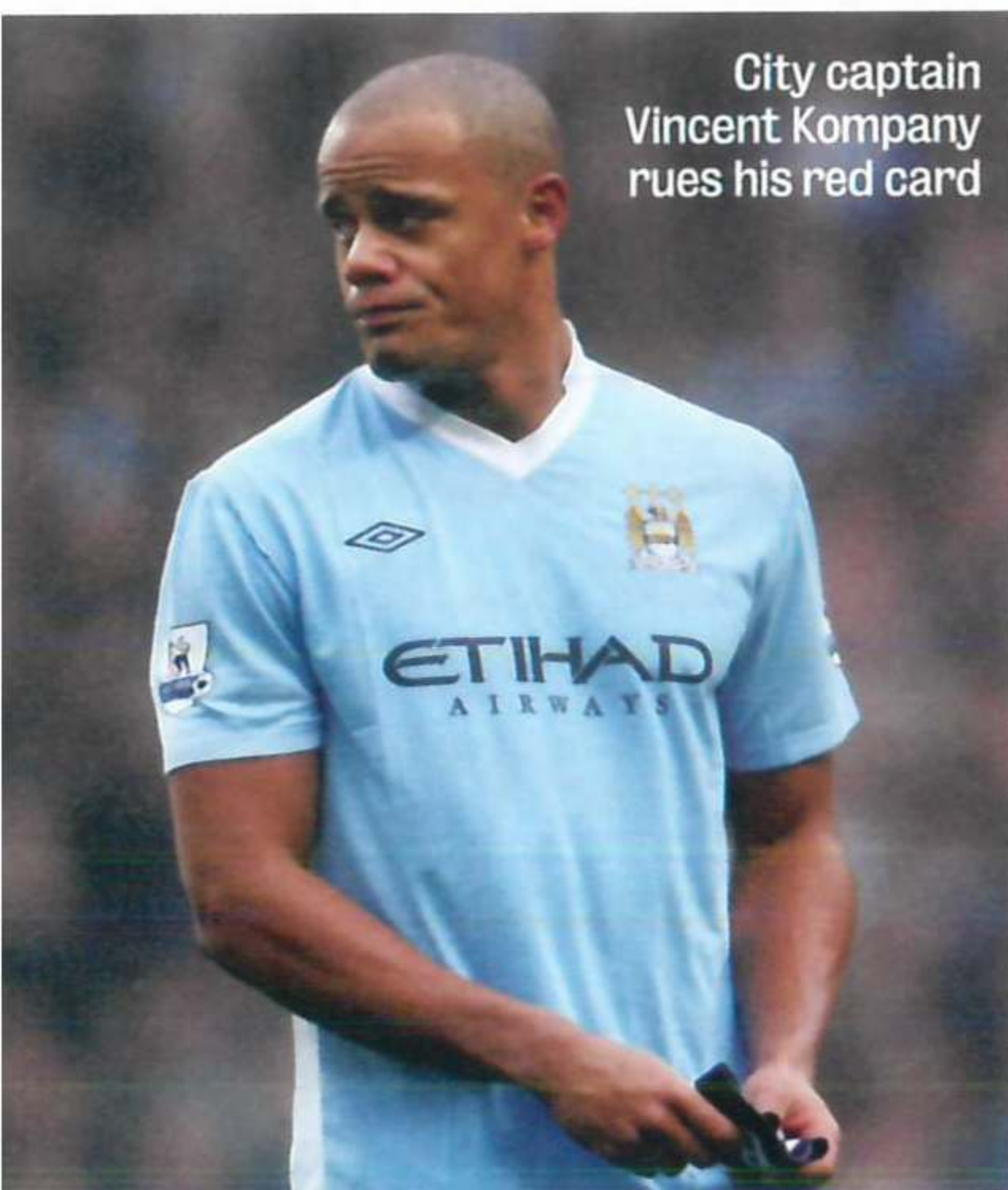
United 50%

## Man of the match: Wayne Rooney

A truly outstanding performance and the first goal showed great desire as well as quality. When in this kind of mood, United's no.10 is impossible to handle.







City captain  
Vincent Kompany  
rues his red card

Pablo Zabaleta coming out for the second half.

For the third game in succession, United conceded soon after the interval. Evra's foul on Micah Richards allowed Kolarov to line up a free-kick from outside the box and flight an accurate shot past Lindegaard to pull one back.

The return of Scholes as a substitute, after an announcement ending his retirement had been made ahead of kick-off, led to his every pass being cheered loudly by the away fans as he seamlessly slotted straight back into the groove.

However, after Foy decided against awarding another penalty when Valencia was blatantly fouled by Kolarov, a rare misplaced pass by Scholes allowed James Milner to advance and cross for Aguero to fire goalwards. Lindegaard could only parry the ball back towards the Argentinian, who reached it first to reduce the arrears to a single goal.

United survived a penalty shout when Kolarov's cross bounced against Jones's arm and there was a late scare when Lindegaard beat away another Kolarov free-kick but, even allowing for the one-man advantage, the visitors asserted almost total control throughout the eye of the storm.

Only a Pantilimon save denied Scholes a dream return and Rooney shot just wide as he hunted a third hat-trick of the season. For all the talk of a "moral victory" from City's players afterwards, there was only one victory that counted: the one that redressed some of the balance after the 6-1 defeat at Old Trafford and sent United into another tie to relish against Liverpool in round four.

## POST-MATCH REACTION

A pulsating third-round tie ends with the Reds taking the bragging rights, and the victors had their say...

### Sir Alex Ferguson



"It was a careless performance in the second half and we should have been home and dry. We had a clear scoreline but

we were too careless and that's the area where, if we keep doing that, we will make mistakes."

### Chris Smalling



"I think all 11 players really produced today and, despite the second-half dip, we stayed resilient and the important thing

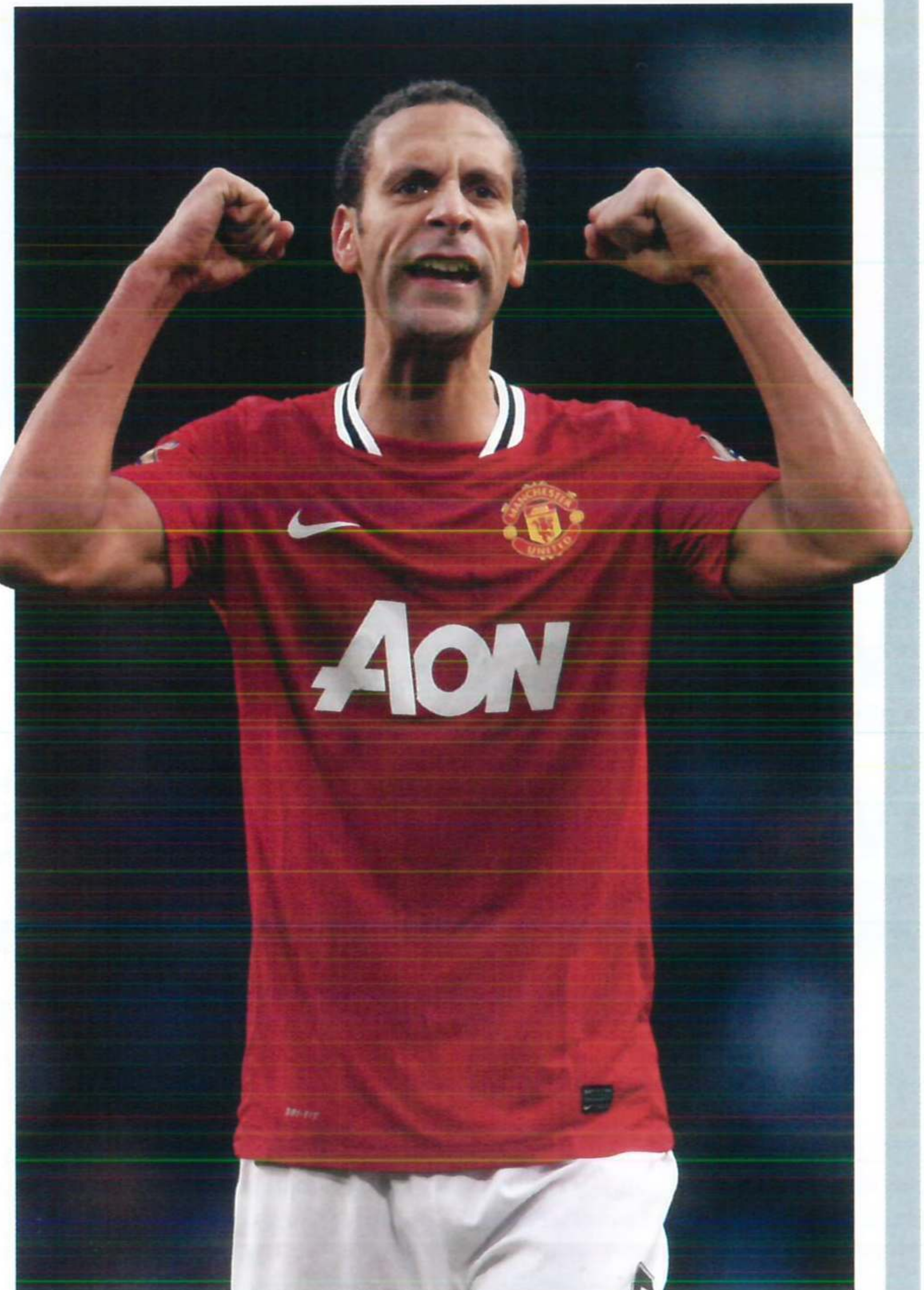
is that we got the win in the end."

### Wayne Rooney



"We were a bit disappointed with the second-half performance but we're delighted with the win.

Cup football can be like that sometimes – once they got their first goal it lifted their fans and then when the second one went in with 20 minutes or so to go, we had to make sure that we saw the game out. Thankfully we managed to do that."



## What fans on ManUtd.com/talkingreds thought of the game...

### Mojojojo101:

"If you are an opponent of either Manchester team, today showed perfectly how to beat them. Both teams failed to make an impact when they dominated possession and the opponents took advantage on the counter-attack. This has

been a running theme for both teams all season."

### Pele10:

"As I see it, that was a typical United win. Like Sir Alex has been saying for years, we don't make it easy for ourselves. Why should today

have been any different?"

### Alextheone:

"It was an important win for United for the Premier League and the FA Cup. There were good performances from Welbeck, Valencia and Rooney. Let's keep it like that!"





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## Previous matches

Barclays Premier League | Wednesday 4 January 2012 | Sports Direct Arena | Kick-off: 8pm | Attendance: 52,299

# Newcastle United 3 Manchester United 0

Ba 33, Cabaye 47, Jones (og) 90

## Second successive defeat leaves the Reds three points adrift of leaders City in the race for the title

Stunning strikes from Demba Ba and Yohan Cabaye condemn United to defeat, with a Phil Jones own goal capping off a shocking night in the North-East. Much to ponder in the post-match analysis...

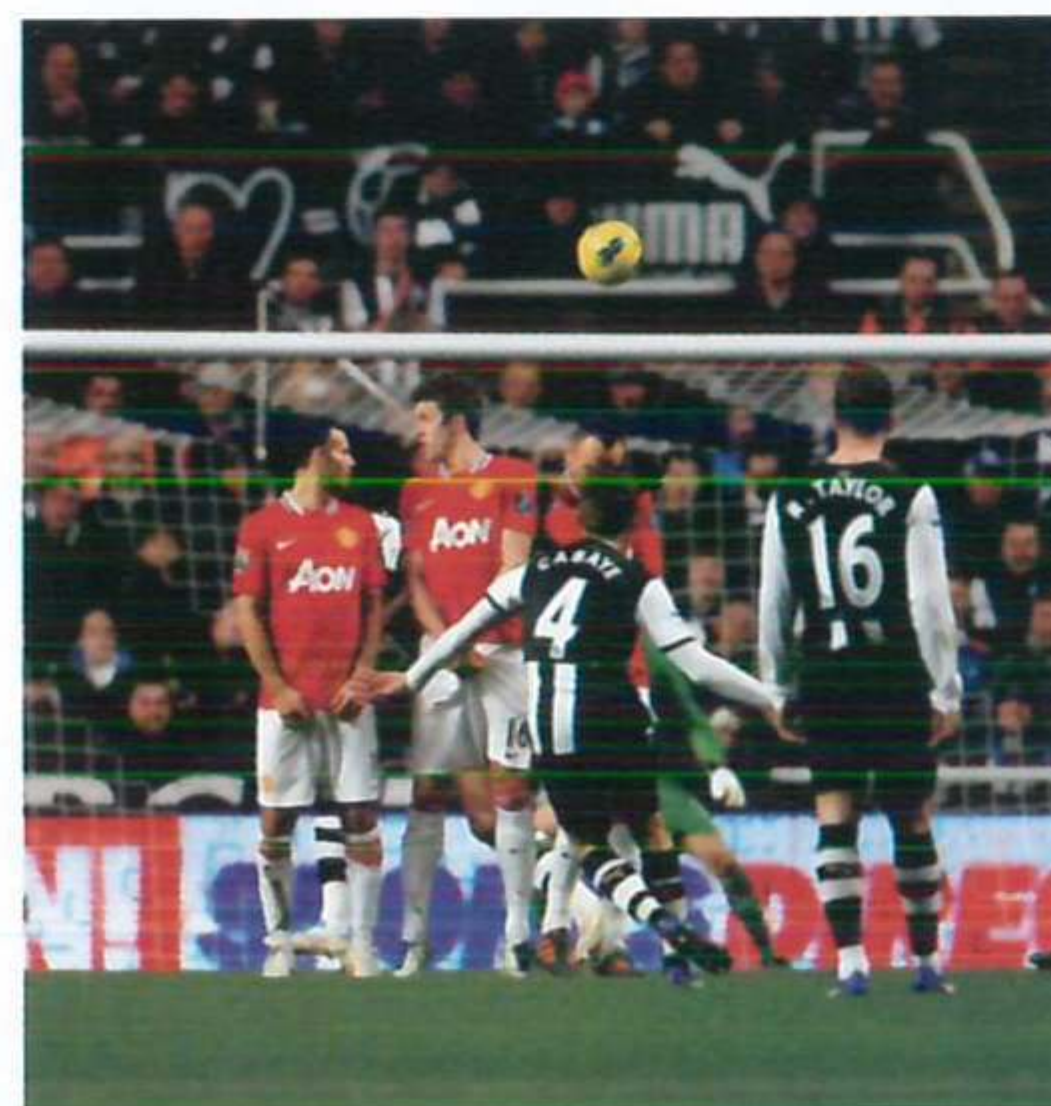
"It is a difficult place to come and get a win but we didn't play to our capabilities, and when you don't do that against a team like Newcastle, who are riding high this season, you are always going to come unstuck."  
**Ryan Giggs**

"We didn't play well enough to win the game. The own-goal just summed up the whole night to be honest. But take nothing away from Newcastle, they fought hard and deserved their victory, no question."

**Sir Alex Ferguson**

"They don't normally lose back-to-back. So to beat them 3-0 in the way we did – and it was 3-0 with a bit to spare – the lads are buzzing. What a night."

**Danny Simpson**



### Newcastle United

Krul; Simpson, Williamson, Coloccini, Santon; Taylor, Tiote, Cabaye (Perch 78), Gutierrez; Sh Ameobi (Best 75), Ba (Obertan 89) **Subs not used:** Harper, Vuckic, Ben Arfa, Sa Ameobi

### Manchester United

Lindegaard; Valencia, Jones, Ferdinand, Evra; Nani, Carrick, Giggs, (Park 66); Berbatov (Welbeck 57), Rooney (Anderson 75) **Subs not used:** De Gea, Rafael, Pogba, Lingard

### Shots on target

Newcastle 5

United 3

### Shots off target

Newcastle 5

United 3

### Possession

Newcastle 40%

United 60%

**Man of the match:**  
**Michael Carrick**

Not a great night, but Carrick was solid in the middle.

Barclays Premier League | Saturday 31 December 2011 | Old Trafford | Kick-off: 12.45pm | Attendance: 75,146

# Manchester United 2 Blackburn Rovers 3

Berbatov 52, 62

Yakubu 16 (pen), 51, Hanley 80

## Rovers inflict shock defeat on Sir Alex's 70th birthday

Yakubu put Blackburn two up, Dimitar Berbatov restored parity, only for Grant Hanley to claim a shock three points for the visitors. A deserved win against a below-par United – as noted in post-match reflections...

"I feel worse now than I did last season when Blackburn were smashed 7-1 by United. That



puts into perspective just how disappointed I am. So we've got to pick ourselves up."

**Phil Jones**

"We've lost two terrible goals and you can't do that in games like this. You can expect Blackburn to put up that sort of fight,

though. They were resilient, they defended well, blocked shots on the line. They did that all day."

**Sir Alex Ferguson**

**Man of the match:**  
**Dimitar Berbatov**

After his Wigan hat-trick he netted a brace in losing effort.

### Manchester United

De Gea; Valencia, Carrick, Jones, Evra; Nani, Rafael (W Keane 85), Park, Welbeck; Berbatov, Hernandez (Anderson 46) **Subs not used:** Lindegaard, Fryers, Pogba, Cole, Diouf

### Blackburn Rovers

Bunn; Lowe, Samba, Hanley, Henley; Rochina (Morris 55), Nzonzi, Petrovic, Pedersen; Formica (Goodwillie 85), Yakubu (Slew 90) **Subs not used:** Kean, Linganzi, Vukcevic, Blackman

### Shots on target

United 5

Blackburn 3

### Shots off target

United 13

Blackburn 5

### Possession

United 63%

Blackburn 37%





Ji-sung Park takes the congratulations after putting United a goal up inside 10 minutes

**“Patrice Evra has shown the way forward as captain. He’s been a great leader”**  
**Sir Alex Ferguson**

#### Manchester United

Lindegaard; Valencia, Carrick (Fryers 46), Evans ■, Evra; Park, Gibson, Giggs (Macheda 63), Nani (Rooney 63); Berbatov, Hernandez  
Subs not used: De Gea, Rafael, Welbeck, Diouf

#### Wigan Athletic

Al Habsi; Stam, Figueroa, Alcaraz, Caldwell; Jones ■, Diame (Di Santo 45), McCarthy, Gomez (McArthur 71); Moses (Rodallega 79), Sammon ■  
Subs not used: Pollitt, Gohouri, Watson, Crusat

#### Shots on target

United 8

Wigan 2

#### Shots off target

United 12

Wigan 7

#### Possession

United 61%

Wigan 39%

Barclays Premier League | Wednesday 26 December 2011 | Old Trafford | Kick-off: 3pm | Attendance: 75,183

# Manchester United

# Wigan Athletic

5  
0

Park 8, Berbatov 41, 58, 78 (pen), Valencia 75

**Reds make it a happy Christmas with a second 5-0 win of the week, including a hat-trick for our in-form Bulgarian**

Ji-sung Park’s early goal set the tone for a handsome Boxing Day victory, although Wigan were left to rue the harsh dismissal of Conor Sammon. Against 10 men, United were unstoppable, with Dimitar

Berbatov claiming the match ball and former Latic Antonio Valencia rounding off the rout. So, delight for those involved...

“Quite a few players changed compared to the last game, but we still kept up the same performance as we did against Fulham. It’s good for the team and it proves that our squad is strong. Early goals make us more confident and energetic for the rest of the game. We always try to keep going and stay concentrated. Early goals help that a lot.”

**Ji-sung Park**

“It was the right game for him [Berbatov]. I needed his height for set-pieces against us and he’s weighed in with a hat-trick. We’re really pleased for him and it helps with confidence. Dimitar hasn’t had the best of starts to the season in terms of selection given the options I have with Welbeck,

Rooney, Hernandez, so I’m really happy for him.”

**Sir Alex Ferguson**

“We wanted to keep going [in the second half], we didn’t want things to fizzle out as they can do sometimes when you’re a couple of goals up against 10 men and they sit back. It was a different game in the second half but we just kept plugging away, kept going and we’re obviously delighted with 5-0.”

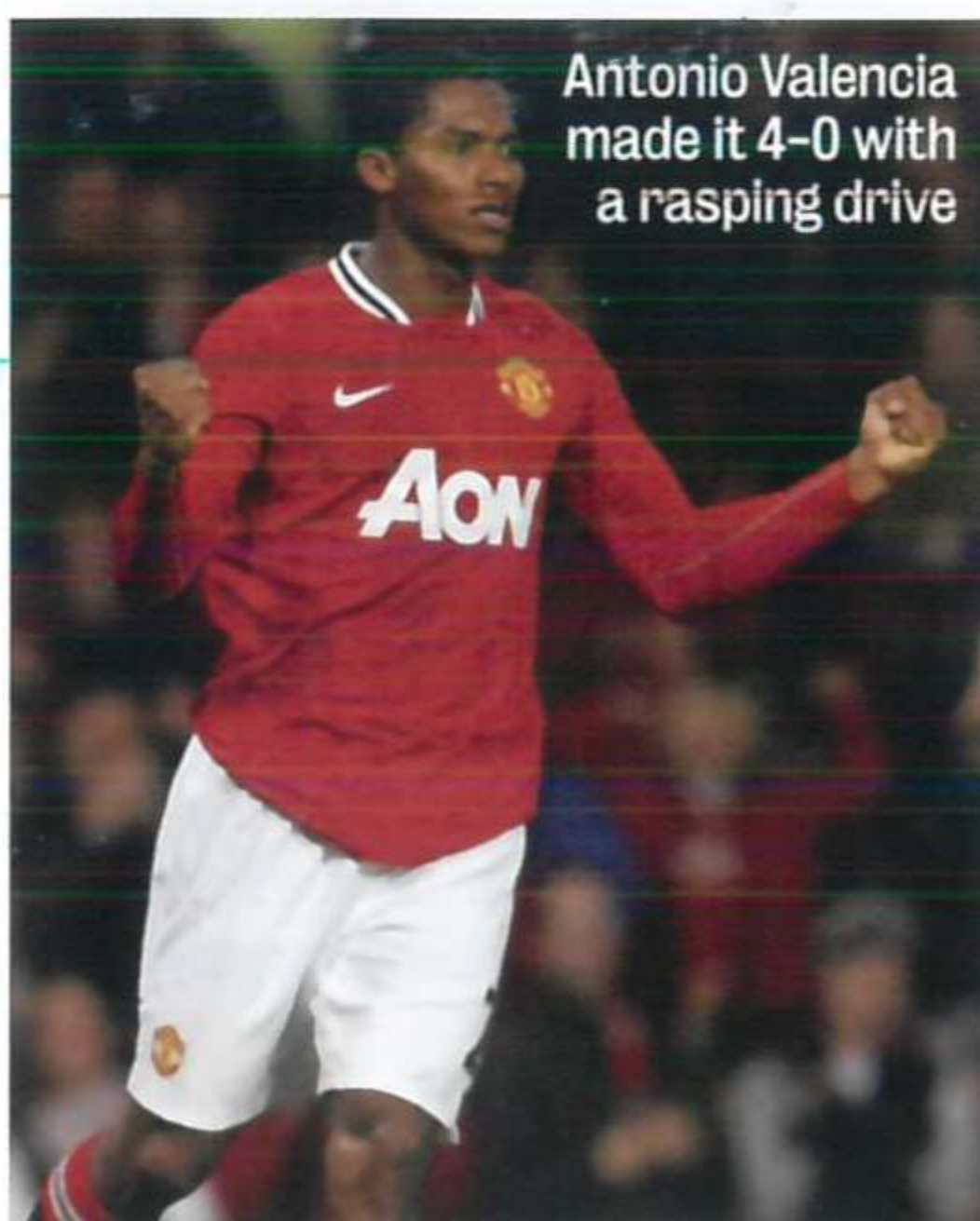
**Michael Carrick**

## Man of the match: Dimitar Berbatov

Hat-trick hero in only his second league start of the campaign, Berba was inspired.



Antonio Valencia made it 4-0 with a rasping drive





# NEWS

*Paul Scholes returns; Our Ballon d'Or winners; Phil Jones sock superstition!*

## News in numbers

The FA Cup, and a record to avoid...

**1** Danny Welbeck was the sole Manchester-born player to start last weekend's FA Cup derby at the Etihad, and scored his first goal against City at senior level.



**3** of the United squad have won the FA Cup before – Darren Fletcher and Ryan Giggs for the Reds, and Michael Owen with Liverpool.

**17** times United have been paired with Liverpool in the FA Cup, following last weekend's fourth round draw.

**3,690**

days since United lost at home to West Ham in December 2001 – the last time the Reds suffered three successive Premier League defeats.



## The second coming

After a shock return in our FA Cup win, now for his home bow...

**P**aul Scholes forged a legendary career out of popping up where he was least expected, and the veteran schemer pulled off his greatest appearing act yet in last weekend's victory at Manchester City.

The 37-year-old was announced as United's newest signing an hour before kick-off at the Etihad Stadium, and was soon popping trademark passes around as a second-half sub.

The news stunned not only United supporters, but the rest of Sir Alex Ferguson's squad, who had become accustomed to Scholes in his role as technical skills coach ever since his retirement at the end of last season.

"I was surprised," laughed Wayne Rooney. "We didn't find out until we got in the dressing room and saw him getting changed. It is obviously great as he's a great footballer and is a very experienced player. He brought a bit of calmness to our play towards the end of the game which helped us see it out.

"We just thought he was coming along for the game but we saw him getting changed and somebody asked him what he was doing. Then we saw the no.22 Scholes shirt, which was a bit weird, seeing him with that number. But it's great as he is a well-liked lad around the dressing room."

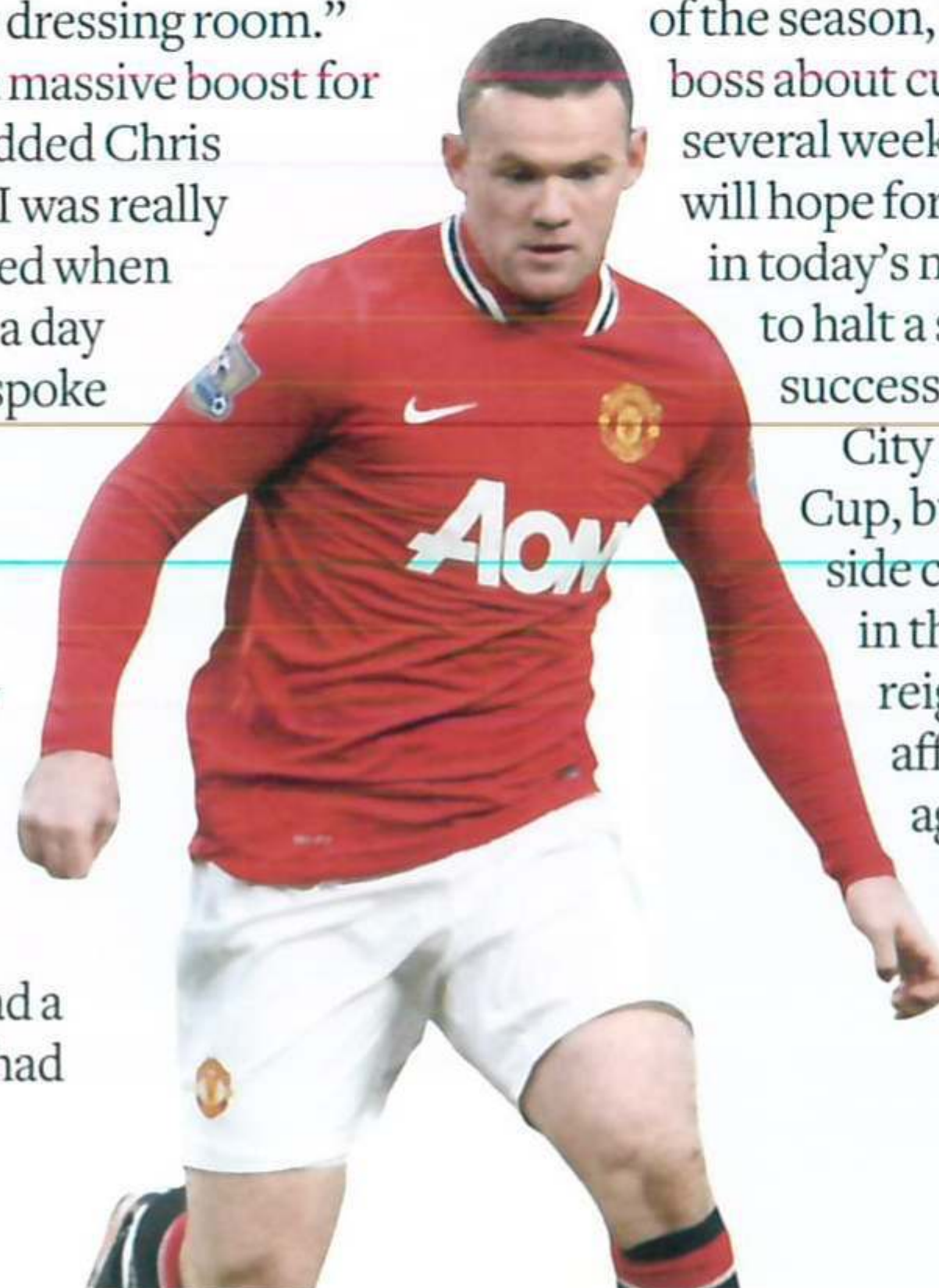
"It was a massive boost for all of us," added Chris Smalling. "I was really disappointed when he called it a day last year. I spoke

to Danny Welbeck before the game, we were really excited that he's back and it gave the whole squad a boost. We had

seen him take part in some sessions before but I didn't quite expect him to be on the bench until I saw him getting changed to be honest. It was a welcome boost."

Scholes will remain at Sir Alex Ferguson's disposal for the remainder of the season, having approached the boss about curtailing his retirement several weeks ago. The midfielder will hope for further involvement in today's match, as the Reds aim to halt a sequence of two successive league defeats.

City may be out of the FA Cup, but Roberto Mancini's side continue to lead the way in the title race and the reigning champions cannot afford to drop points against Owen Coyle's resurgent Bolton side, who have picked up seven points from their last four games.







### Matt Busby, 1970

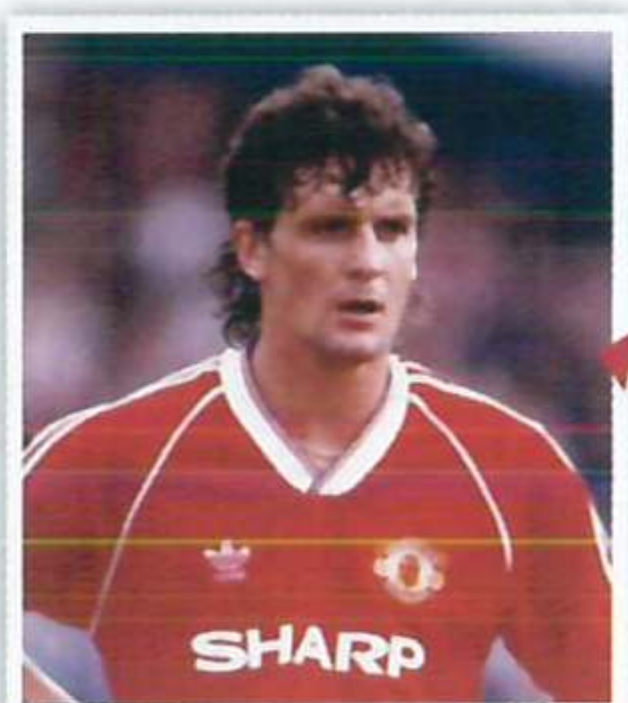
After ending his 24-year managerial stint by moving upstairs, Busby returned for another spell in charge between the reigns of Wilf McGuinness and Frank O'Farrell.

# 5 aside



### George Best, 1973

Having stunned the football world with his retirement in December 1972, Bestie resurfaced to a hero's welcome when he bolstered the struggling Reds 10 months later.



### Mark Hughes, 1988

Sparky was sold to Barcelona just before Sir Alex arrived at Old Trafford, but two years later the Welshman was brought back as the Reds' record signing.

*Scholesy is back... so we salute other famous Old Trafford comebacks*



### Eric Cantona, 1995

Eric was missed for nine turbulent months, but returned with a wildly-celebrated penalty – against Liverpool.

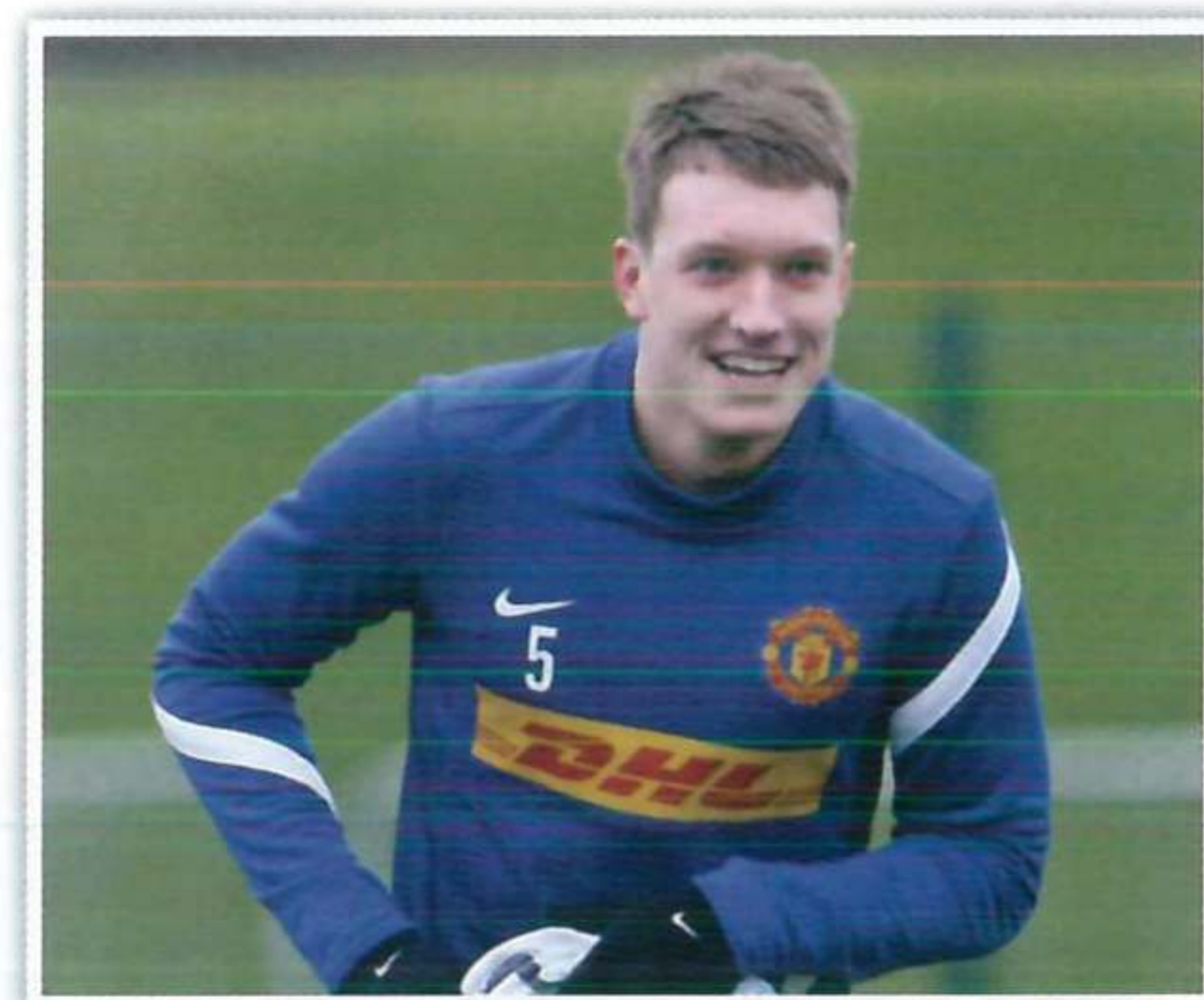


### Ole Solskjaer, 2006

After almost three goal-less years of battling a serious knee injury, Ole prompted heart-warming celebrations with a late goal at Charlton.

## Phil Jones: My superstition...

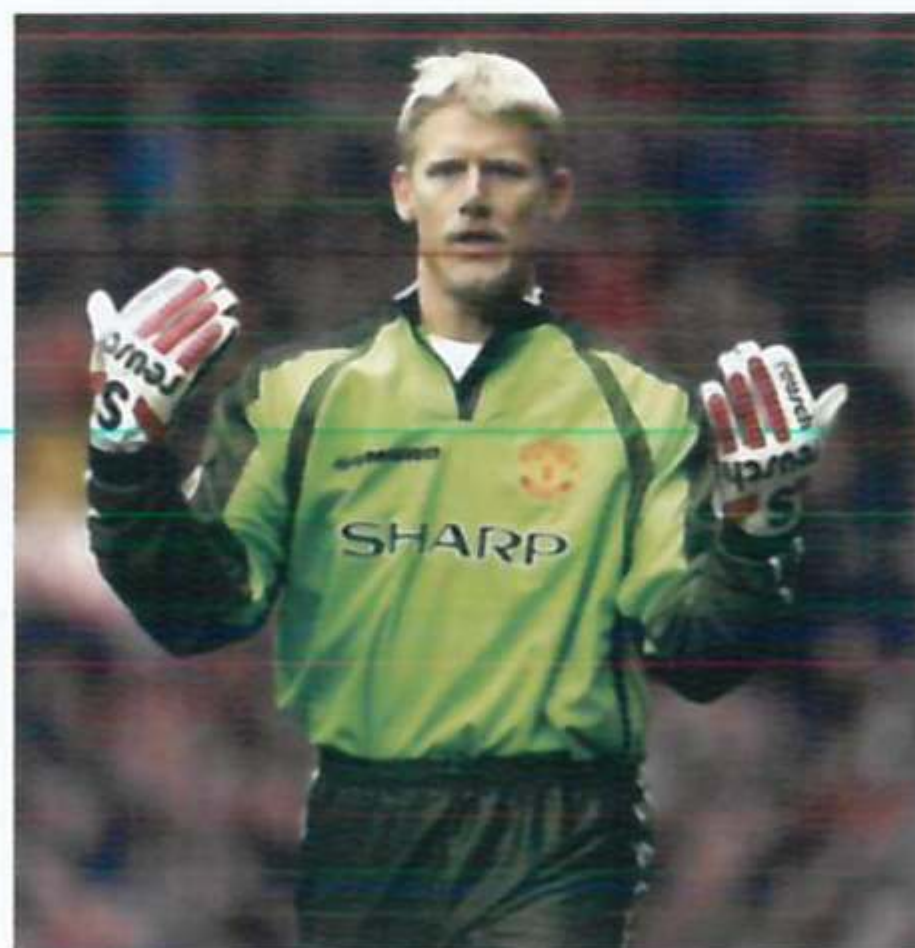
“It sounds stupid, but it depends on whether we're home or away. The fixtures list United on the left when we're at home and on the right when we're away, so when we're away I'll put my right sock on first; at home I'll put my left sock on. Also, when I walk onto the pitch, I'll take the first step across the white line with the foot that corresponds to whether we're home or away. I know it's weird but I can't help myself.”



## 28.02.12

### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Reds legends Denis Law and Peter Schmeichel return to OT for a special Manchester United Foundation lunch, alongside a member of the current playing squad. Guests can enjoy a two-course lunch before grilling the trio in an open question and answer session hosted by Eamonn Holmes. For more details and booking info, turn to p59.



Nemanja Vidic, Sir Alex Ferguson and Wayne Rooney pose with their awards at this week's Ballon d'Or ceremony in Zurich. The boss took the Presidential Award for his 25 years of service at Old Trafford; Vidic and Rooney were named in the 2011 FIFA/FIFPro World XI.





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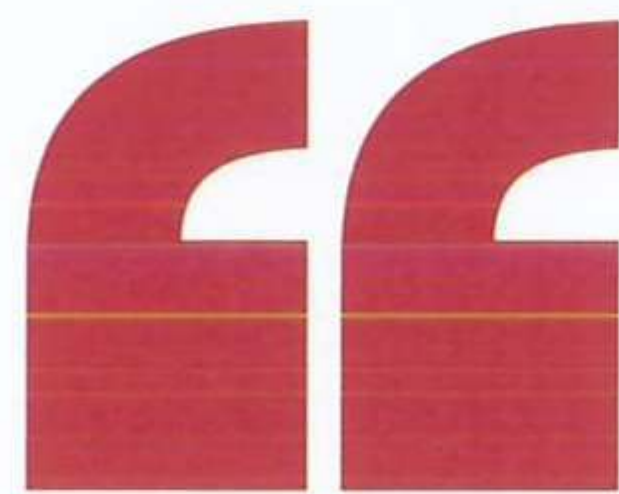
WAY OF SINGHA, WAY OF MANCHESTER UNITED



# THE AMBASSADOR'S COLUMN

*Even though the Reds welcome notoriously unyielding opponents today, Sir Bobby Charlton is brimming with confidence after the shock return to action of one of his favourite United players...*

**SIR BOBBY CHARLTON**  
ANDY COLE  
GARY NEVILLE  
BRYAN ROBSON



When I was first making my way in football, Bolton were a real force

to be reckoned with. They were the hardest of any of the teams we played.

Tommy Banks, their left full-back, talked to you and tried to let you know who was boss. I think it was Nobby Stiles whom he once warned: 'If you go past me once, I'll get you the second time!' Roy Hartle was Bolton's right full-back and he was recognised as one of the hardest players around. I remember once, one of our players briefly went off injured in a game at Old Trafford. When the player came back onto the pitch, Roy kicked him straight off again. When the player protested, he said: 'If thee's not fit, son, thee should not have come back on the field.' Then Tommy Banks shouted: 'When you've finished with him, Roy, chip him over to me.'

Looking back it was probably a lot of talk, but they really were tough as

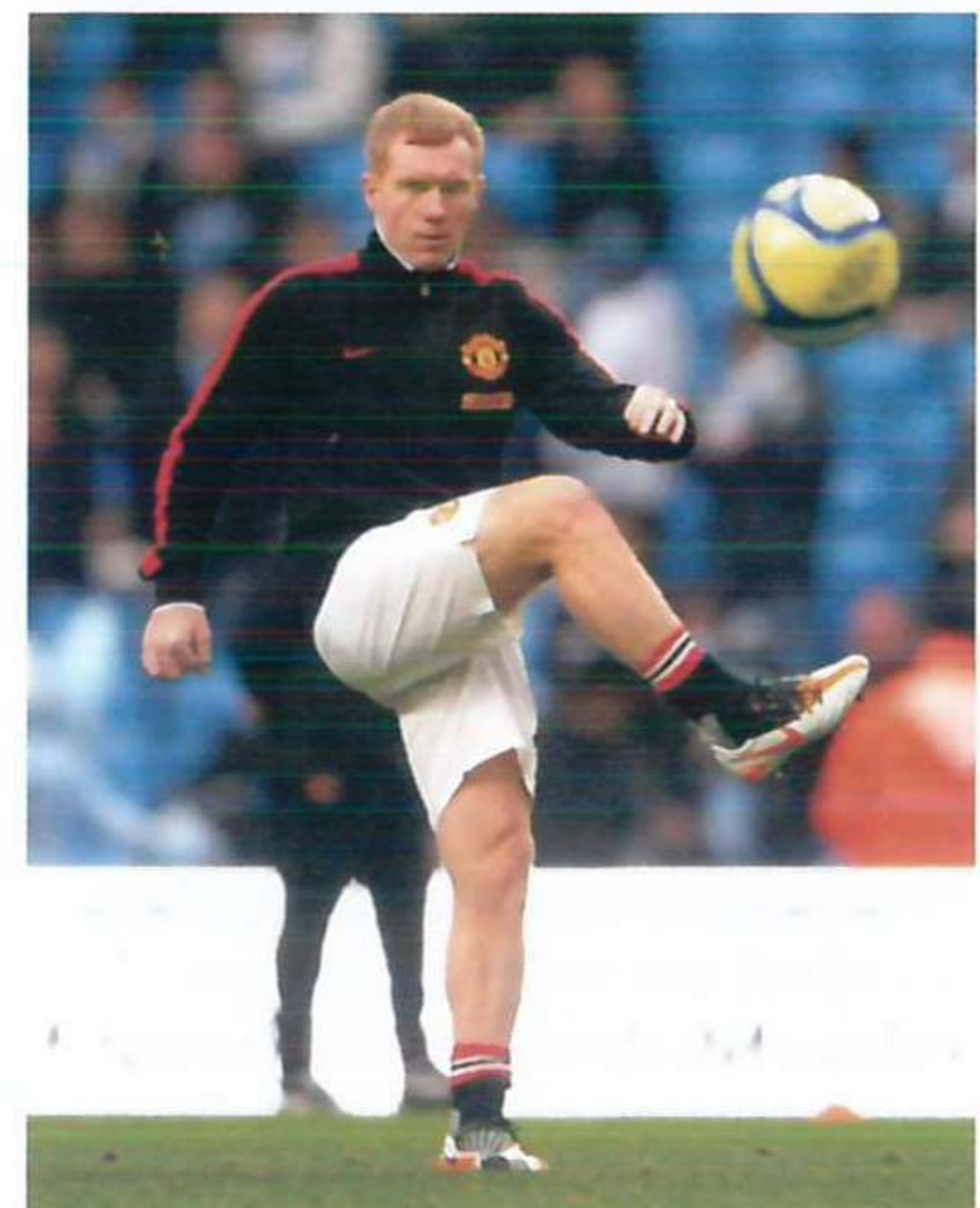


teak. They were Bolton Wanderers. They embodied everything you expect to face when you meet Bolton: tough players, but a pleasure to test yourself against.

I expect a tough game today, especially with Bolton in need of points, but I'm quite pleased with how the season is shaping up from our perspective. We've got no more injuries than other teams – though they're long-term injuries. But it's only just been Christmas and I always thought if we could reach this point in touch, then generally speaking we're good finishers.

I'm quite confident about what we've got, as long as we don't get any suspensions or any more injuries. What's decent this time is that we've got other teams added to this supposed 'big four', all going for the title. There are a lot of points to be taken off each other... it's a marathon, and I'm really quite confident. I'm not afraid of anyone, and I think we've got enough lads who know a crisis when they see it – and who can then perform accordingly.

I've been even more upbeat since I heard about Paul Scholes returning to the squad. It's one of the best pieces of news I've ever had. I imagine he's been as patient as he could be, but at the end of the day he had to give in because he just wanted to come and play. He's a fantastic player and we're so lucky to have him. I was really knocked out



when I heard the news – it made last Sunday the best day of my week.

He's a sensational footballer. He's happier now, you can see. I have no idea how long he'll play – probably just until the end of the season, I don't know – but it's fantastic news. He's a great player and we're very lucky, because maybe the one thing Sir Alex had given a bit of thought to, was that we needed a creative player in midfield. Suddenly there's a knock on the door and it's Paul Scholes saying he wants to play again. Alex must have thought it was Christmas all over again!



A typically uncompromising Tommy Banks tackle halts a young Bobby Charlton in the 1958 FA Cup final





**A**bout of tonsillitis meant Chris Smalling missed United's recent defeats against Blackburn and Newcastle, but the young defender was as disappointed as anybody to see the Reds drop points. Now, having made an earlier-than-expected comeback in last weekend's FA Cup derby, the 22-year-old is determined to help reignite the Reds' title charge.

**How are you feeling now?**

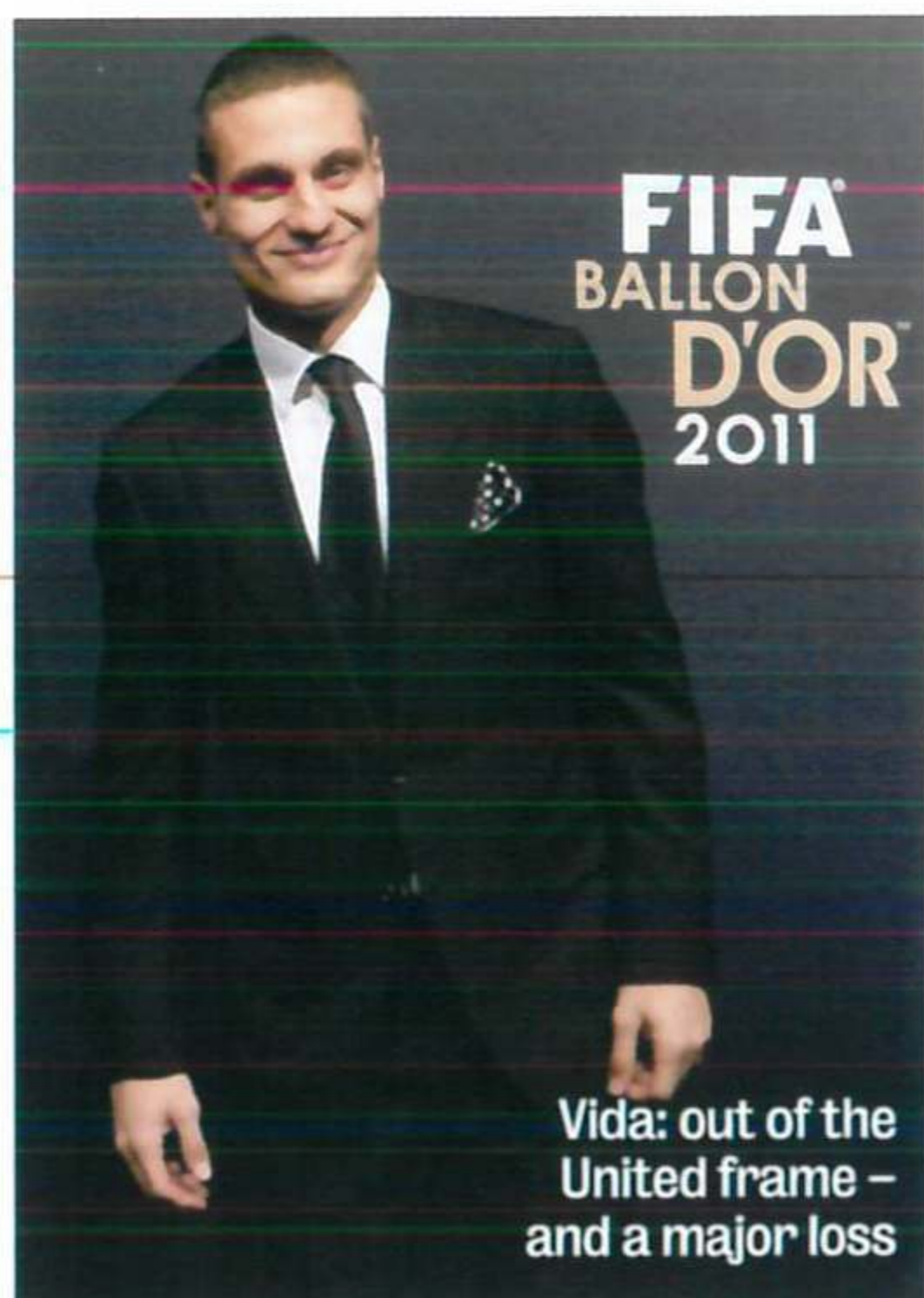
Good, thanks. I'm fit and well, ready to go again. I just needed a little bit of rest over the Christmas and New Year period to get over the tonsillitis. It's nothing to worry about.

**Was it frustrating to fall ill at a time when United already had a spate of defensive injuries?**

It was far from ideal. But the lads who stepped in did really well. I think we've probably had more injuries than any other club in the league. I definitely don't think many teams have lost players of the calibre of Nemanja Vidic and Darren Fletcher for such lengthy periods. And yet we're still going strong, we're still challenging for the lead, and we're getting a few players back now, which will be crucial for the title run-in.

**How much has the chopping and changing affected the side?**

Nobody could have foreseen all the injuries we've had. At the start of the season we had good numbers and good quality. With so many injuries the form was bound to dip once or twice, but we're all pulling together and there have been plenty of good results.



EXCLUSIVE  
INTERVIEW



# Great expectations

*Having missed consecutive league defeats Chris Smalling is back – and bidding to help the Reds fulfil their 2011/12 aims*



**How pleased have you been with your own contribution this season?**

I had a little knock that kept me out for about six weeks in September and October, but otherwise I've been happy with how things have gone. I've been involved in some big games and, when I've not been injured, played more often than not. I just hope I can steer clear of injury now and finish the season strongly.

**How would you sum up the last month of action?**

It's been a bit of a mixed bag. We knew the Christmas period was going to be tough, and we did well against QPR, Fulham and Wigan. But we were gutted to get beaten by Blackburn on New Year's Eve, and then by Newcastle a few days later. The win at Manchester City in the FA Cup has given us a lift, so we hope now we can kick on because there are some big games to come.

**Will that win over City have any impact on the title race?**

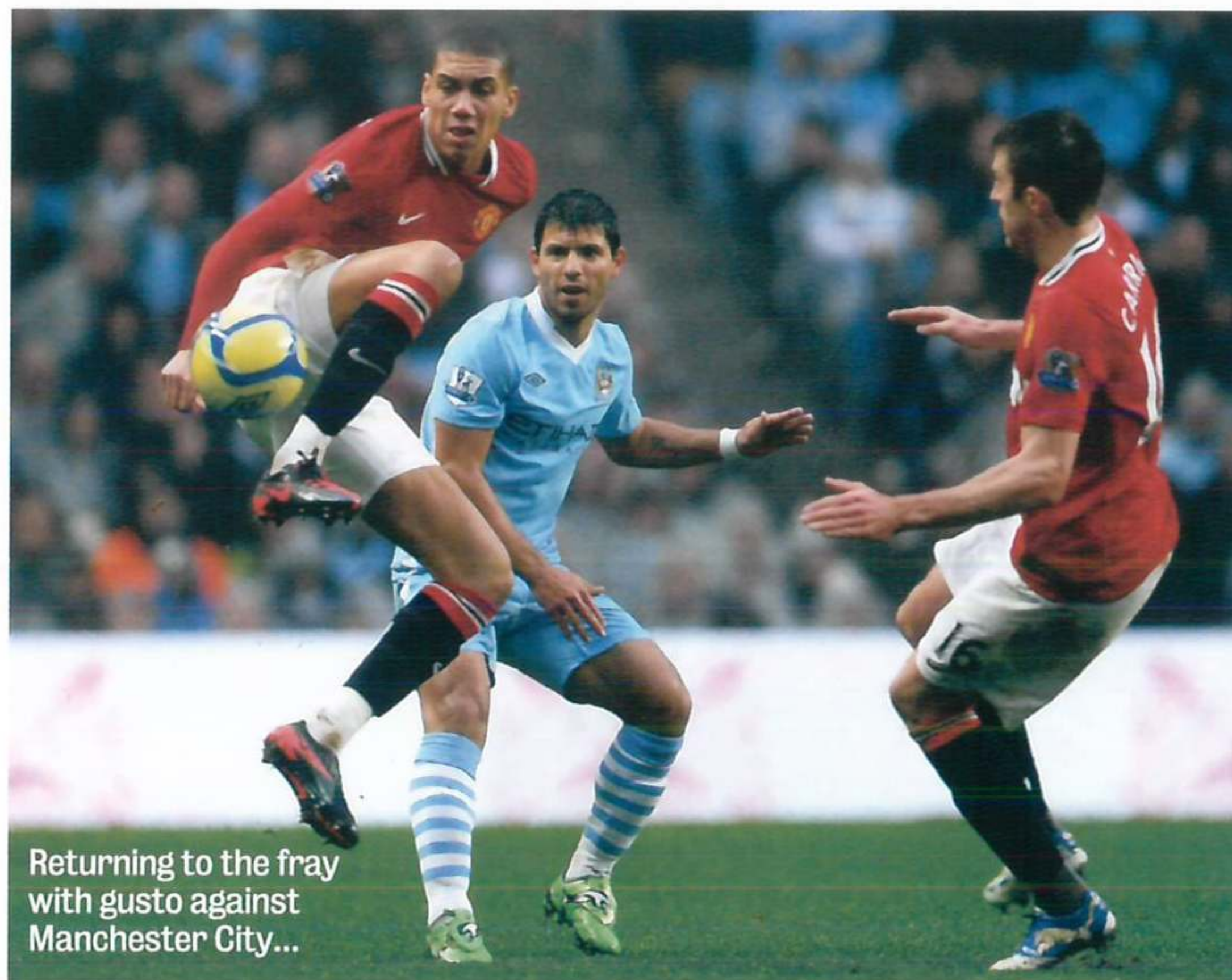
I don't think so, no. The biggest thing it did was give us a morale boost at a time when people were starting to write us off. Instead of crumbling, we went to City and beat them on their home turf, even if we made hard work of it in the second half. Winning that game showed a lot of character.

**Especially as you went into the match as underdogs, on the back of those two defeats...**

Exactly. It was a big result. Even had it been against different opposition, or in a different competition, it would have been essential to win that game. Everybody expected us to take maximum points against Blackburn and Newcastle because we'd just scored five against Wigan and Fulham. So to lose those two matches hurt a lot and prompted a lot of criticism. It made the FA Cup tie even more of a must-win game. We were determined to show the world we could still perform, and I think we did that in the first half.

**Do you find criticism of United odd given that the side has more points now than it did at this stage of last season's title-winning campaign?**

I can understand it because we're behind City in the league, and



Returning to the fray with gusto against Manchester City...

expectations of this club – from both inside and out – are massive. If we're not on top then everybody's asking why – rightly so, too. Finishing second with more points than we collected last season won't make us feel any better about ourselves. The only objective is to win the league.

**What do you expect from Bolton? Do you prepare any differently for their visit?**

We've had the usual video analysis sessions that occur before every game, and we obviously know Bolton are a very committed side who are dangerous from set pieces. They're a tall side so we expect them to try and capitalise on free-kicks and corners. But Owen Coyle's also brought in a few players who are decent on the ball and can pose problems with their passing. It will be a big test.

**Wanderers' Kevin Davies must be a nightmare for defenders to play against...**

He's a handful, for sure. In this league you face a lot of different strikers, and Kevin's a big guy who uses his body well. He's one of many players we need to keep an eye on today.

**The last home game, against Blackburn, was obviously one to forget. What will you do to ensure that something similar doesn't happen against Bolton?**

Last season our home form was pivotal in terms of winning the league, and we've already slipped up once or twice

**"The FA Cup win at City has given us a lift... now we can kick on"**



Davies: invariably poses a robust challenge

this term, which is disappointing. We're determined to get back on track, and I think the FA Cup win has helped to some degree, but we really need three points in the league and that's the only thing on our minds today. The Blackburn game was a good reminder that you can't take anything for granted in this league. If we want to win the title we have to beat everybody we come up against, starting today with Bolton.

## Your shout!

**Chris fields fans' questions...**

**Which part of your game has improved most since you joined United?**

**David Gallagher**

I've spent a lot of time with the coaches working on my positioning, which I think has really paid off. I've also improved in terms of my technique and being able to use both feet – my left foot is really coming on.

**Do you have any plans to attend any events at the Olympics?**

**Bree Plunder**

I'd love to see the 100m final. In fact, I could spend all day at the athletics. I'm a big fan of the triple jump and the 200m as well. I'll also try and get along to see some judo, which I did quite a lot of when I was young.



**You never look nervous – how are you feeling on the inside before and during games?**

**Alex Lowe**

I get excited rather than nervous. In the week before a big game I'm just looking forward to the occasion. I feel as though the first Manchester derby I played in – last season's 2-1 win at Old Trafford – was the day I really kicked on and stepped up to this level, so ever since then I've felt pretty confident on the big occasions. I hope I'm part of a lot more of them in the future.







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The opposition

# BOLTON WANDERERS

*Mark Iles from the Bolton News says Owen Coyle has the club's support and can rebuild the Trotters for the short and long term*

**Bolton spent most of last season in the top half of the table. What's gone wrong since?**

When you have a squad the size of Bolton's, the last thing you need is a lengthy injury list. But from the last time we visited Old Trafford – when Stuart Holden picked up a nasty knee problem – it's been a downward slope towards the medical room. Stu came back in the Carling Cup but was sidelined again due to complications with the original injury. Chung-Yong Lee was also a huge loss when he broke his leg in pre-season. You can't blame it all on injuries, however, and the cold, hard facts are that barely a player in Owen Coyle's squad has been consistent enough this season.

**Owen Coyle hasn't come under fire like, say, Steve Kean at Blackburn. Does he retain a broad base of support?**

The fans wanted Owen Coyle two years ago, and they remain behind him. That's the case with [owner] Eddie Davies and [chairman] Phil



Gartside as well. From talking to people at the club, there is a firm belief Owen can take the club out of the bottom three and build for the future.

**Will Gary Cahill's move away be a destabilising factor, or will the cash allow Coyle some more flexibility in the transfer window?**

With his contract up in the summer, it's easy to see Gaz can move on to bigger things. Owen needs two or three more players to breathe a bit of

life into the Reebok and the survival charge. And he's got a funny knack of finding the right man at this time of year. There haven't been many managers who have used the loan system with as much success recently, and we're all looking for him to pull another rabbit out of the hat this January. As for cover – David Wheeler deserves his chance, and at time of writing, US international Tim Ream is close to signing and I've heard some good things about him.

**This game is the first of a tough new year run, including games against Liverpool, Arsenal, Chelsea and Man City in the next six. What are the Trotters' realistic ambitions in January and February?**

We had an awful run at the start of the season, playing the 'Big Five' in the first seven games. But the 3-2 defeat against Manchester City aside, most fans were disappointed by the standards of performance, or even the spirit shown at times. Realistically, you look at the Norwich and Wigan games, and the lads must stay in touch with those above them.

**What's your prediction today?**

The last few times I have been to United with Wanderers, there have been doubts over United's form, and so it seems again. Had Holden not been injured last season I think we might have snatched something and if the lads can show that sort of fight again, and get some overdue luck, then I think that can be the case today.

## 60-SECOND GUIDE TO BOLTON

### 102 years

Bolton spent more than a century at their previous ground, Burnden Park, before moving to the Reebok Stadium in 1997.



### NAT

**Nat Lofthouse scored 285 goals in 503 games for the club, two of them against United in the final of the 1958 FA Cup, their last major trophy success.**



### 1-2

In October 2001, Bolton became the first team since the start of the Premier League to come from behind to win at OT. Goals from Kevin Nolan and Michael Ricketts overhauled Juan Veron's opener.



### Last 16

**Bolton's run to the last 16 of the UEFA Cup in 2007/08 included wins over Red Star Belgrade and Atlético Madrid.**

## HIGHS AND LOWS 2011/12



**High:** A 5-0 revenge thrashing of Stoke City, reversing the score from April's FA Cup semi-final debacle.

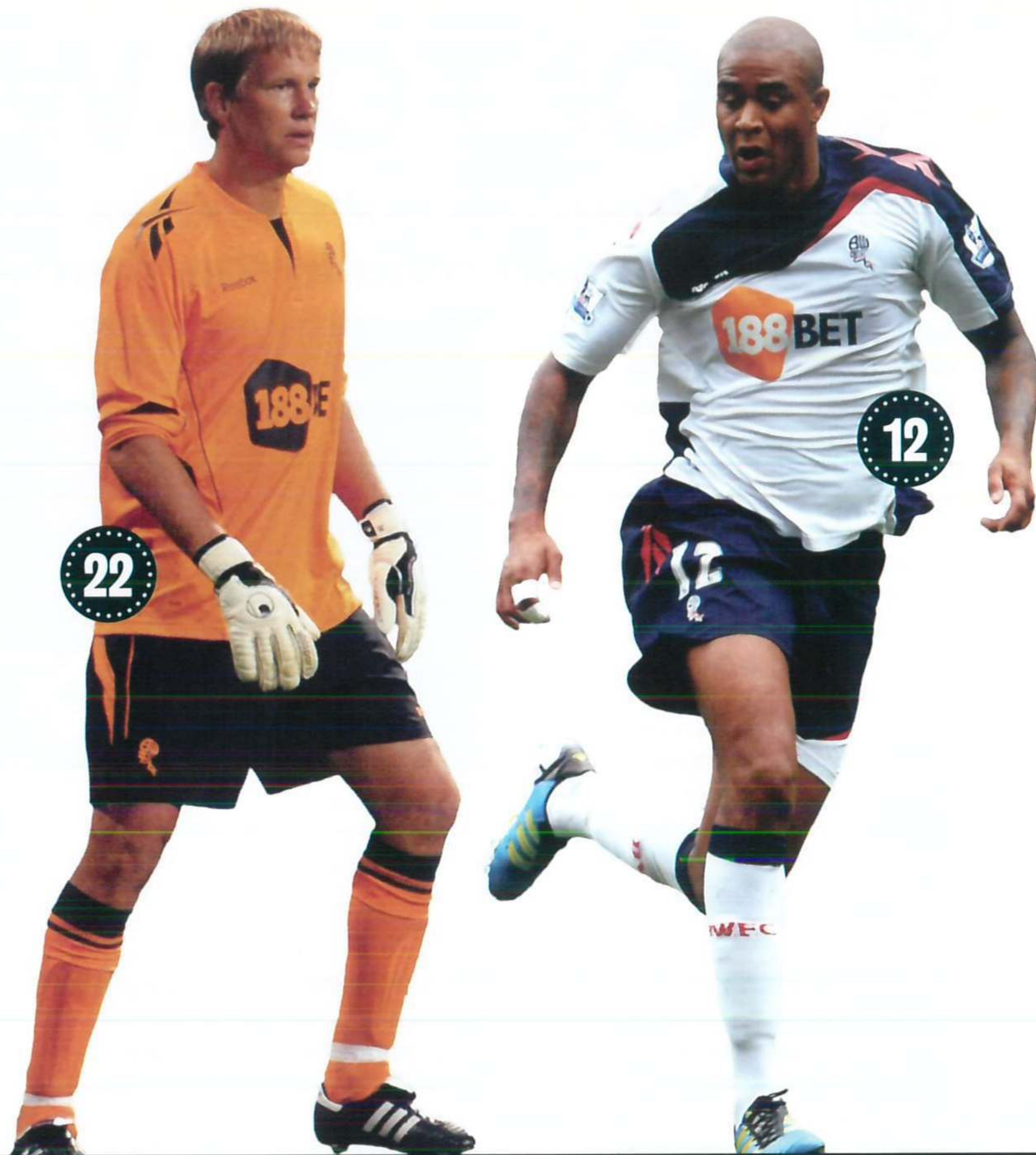


**Low:** Two late goals from Sunderland in October made it five straight league defeats at home since the start of the campaign.



Owen Coyle's underdogs arrive hoping to upset the odds and edge clear of the relegation battle...

# ONES TO WATCH



## Goalkeepers

### 1 Adam Bogdan

Age 24 Nationality Hungarian  
League appearances 6

The unlucky stopper hit the headlines at Everton when Tim Howard's wind-assisted clearance bounced straight over his head and into the Trotters' net.

### 22 Jussi Jaaskelainen

Age 36 Nationality Finnish  
League appearances 476

The veteran keeper signed for Bolton back in 1997 for just £100,000; nearly 500 games later the Finn is still performing heroics. He missed the Everton game with a thigh problem, but is expected to be fit to resume his duties between the sticks today.

### 26 Robert Lainton

Age 22 Nationality English  
League appearances 0

### 43 Jay Lynch

Age 18 Nationality English  
League appearances 0

## Defenders

### 2 Gretar Rafn Steinsson

Age 30 Nationality Icelandic  
League appearances 115 Goals 3

### 3 Marcos Alonso

Age 21 Nationality Spanish  
League appearances 6 Goals 0

### 4 Paul Robinson

Age 33 Nationality English  
League appearances 77 Goals 0  
Ex-Baggies stalwart Robinson has made the left-back berth his own since his switch from the Hawthorns in summer '09.

### 5 Gary Cahill

Age 26 Nationality English  
League appearances 130 Goals 13  
As *United Review* went to press, talks over a move to Chelsea were still ongoing.

### 12 Zat Knight

Age 31 Nationality English  
League appearances 85 Goals 2  
Tall and powerful, Knight is an essential

physical presence at the heart of Bolton's defence. He won't have fond memories of OT, though: in October 2009, he turned a Michael Owen header into his own net.

### 15 Tyrone Mears

Age 28 Nationality English  
League appearances 0 Goals 0

### 18 Sam Ricketts

Age 30 Nationality Welsh  
League appearances 46 Goals 1  
The Welsh international left-back returned on New Year's Eve against Wolves after months out recovering from a snapped Achilles, and bagged his first Bolton goal.

### 25 Dedryck Boyata

Age 21 Nationality Belgian  
League appearances 10 Goals 1

### 31 David Wheater

Age 24 Nationality English  
League appearances 14 Goals 0  
Craggy centre-back Wheater has had his problems with officials this season; he was sent off against both Everton and Arsenal.

### 39 Joe Riley

Age 20 Nationality English  
League appearances 2 Goals 0

## Midfielders

### 6 Fabrice Muamba

Age 23 Nationality English  
League appearances 123 Goals 3  
A product of the Arsenal youth set-up, Muamba has a wealth of top-flight experience that belies his years. Born in Zaire, he cut his teeth at Birmingham City, before a £5 million move to the Reebok in June 2008. Since then, the dynamic midfielder has established himself as a vital central presence, and his 33 caps for England's Under-21s are a testament to his quality.

### 7 Chris Eagles

Age 26 Nationality English  
League appearances 18 Goals 3  
The former United winger switched from Burnley this summer. He started regularly early in the season, but has often been deployed from the bench in recent weeks.



## Meet the Bolton squad



### 8 Stuart Holden

**Age 26 Nationality** American  
**League appearances 28 Goals 2**  
The Scotland-born US international has had further knee surgery after his collision with Jonny Evans in this fixture last season.

### 10 Martin Petrov

**Age 32 Nationality** Bulgarian  
**League appearances 43 Goals 4**  
The veteran winger, a free transfer from City in July 2010, turns 33 tomorrow, but has lost none of his pace on the left flank. And United know all about his threat – he scored in last term's 2-2 at the Reebok.

### 11 Ricardo Gardner

**Age 33 Nationality** Jamaican  
**League appearances 347 Goals 22**  
This is Gardner's 14th season in Bolton colours and, while not an automatic pick in midfield, he remains a vital squad member.

### 16 Mark Davies

**Age 23 Nationality** English  
**League appearances 69 Goals 2**  
Lively midfielder Davies has worked his

way to prominence at Bolton and is now one of the key creative forces at Owen Coyle's disposal. He's only scored two goals in his time at the Reebok, but they've both been memorable. He started and finished a team effort against Blackpool last term that won goal of the season; then, in the crunch pre-Christmas game against Blackburn, it was his cool, early finish that set up a vital win.

### 19 Nigel Reo-Coker

**Age 27 Nationality** English  
**League appearances 19 Goals 2**  
The combative midfielder signed on a free after three seasons each in the claret and blue of Aston Villa and West Ham.

### 21 Darren Pratley

**Age 26 Nationality** English  
**League appearances 17 Goals 0**  
Attacking midfielder, signed on a four-year deal from Swansea City in the summer.

### 23 Sean Davis

**Age 32 Nationality** English  
**League appearances 3 Goals 0**

### 27 Chung-Yong Lee

**Age 23 Nationality** South Korean  
**League appearances 65 Goals 7**

### 37 Josh Vela

**Age 18 Nationality** English  
**League appearances 0 Goals 0**

## Forwards

### 9 Tuncay Sanli

**Age 29 Nationality** Turkish  
**League appearances 10 Goals 0**  
On loan from Wolfsburg, Tuncay is yet to register his first strike for Bolton, but he knows the way to goal against the Reds: in 2004 he put a hat-trick past United when playing for Fenerbahçe, and he also netted against us for Stoke last season.

### 14 Kevin Davies

**Age 34 Nationality** English  
**League appearances 303 Goals 64**  
Club captain Davies has long been the epitome of the classic English centre-half, with strength, aerial power and effective link play. A tough customer for any defence.

### 17 Ivan Klasnic

**Age 31 Nationality** Croatian  
**League appearances 66 Goals 19**  
After seven years at Werder Bremen, Klasnic joined Nantes in 2008, after which a loan deal to the Reebok was made permanent. He spent most of his first two seasons at Bolton on the bench (37 of his first 49 outings were as a sub), but this term he's taken centre stage, starting with a bang (three in four), while his FA Cup strike made it eight goals in total to date.

### 20 Robbie Blake

**Age 35 Nationality** English  
**League appearances 9 Goals 1**

### 24 David Ngog

**Age 22 Nationality** French  
**League appearances 15 Goals 2**  
Ex-Liverpool man adds a real element of pace to the Bolton front line and bagged a smart goal against Everton.

### 36 Michael O'Halloran

**Age 21 Nationality** Scottish  
**League appearances 0 Goals 0**







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Back in the day

# History matters

Focus on United stalwart Silcock, fond memories of a Red-turned-Trotter, and siblings in the spotlight

**M**ost Reds would be able to pick Ryan Giggs, Sir Bobby Charlton and Bill Foulkes as the men occupying positions one to three in the ranks of United's top 10 all-time league appearance-makers. But can you name the man in seventh, one place above Tony Dunne and two ahead of Gary Neville? The man in question is Jack Silcock, a full-back, like Dunne and Neville, who represented the Reds 423 times in league matches between 1919 and 1934 (449 games in total).

Silcock – whose collectible card from 1922 (below) can be seen in the Manchester United museum – was born in Wigan and started out as a miner for the Wigan Coal and Iron Company in Aspull. After being spotted playing for Aspull Juniors, he signed for Lancashire Combination

## Inside the museum...



Silcock (back row, third from right) on 'North' duty

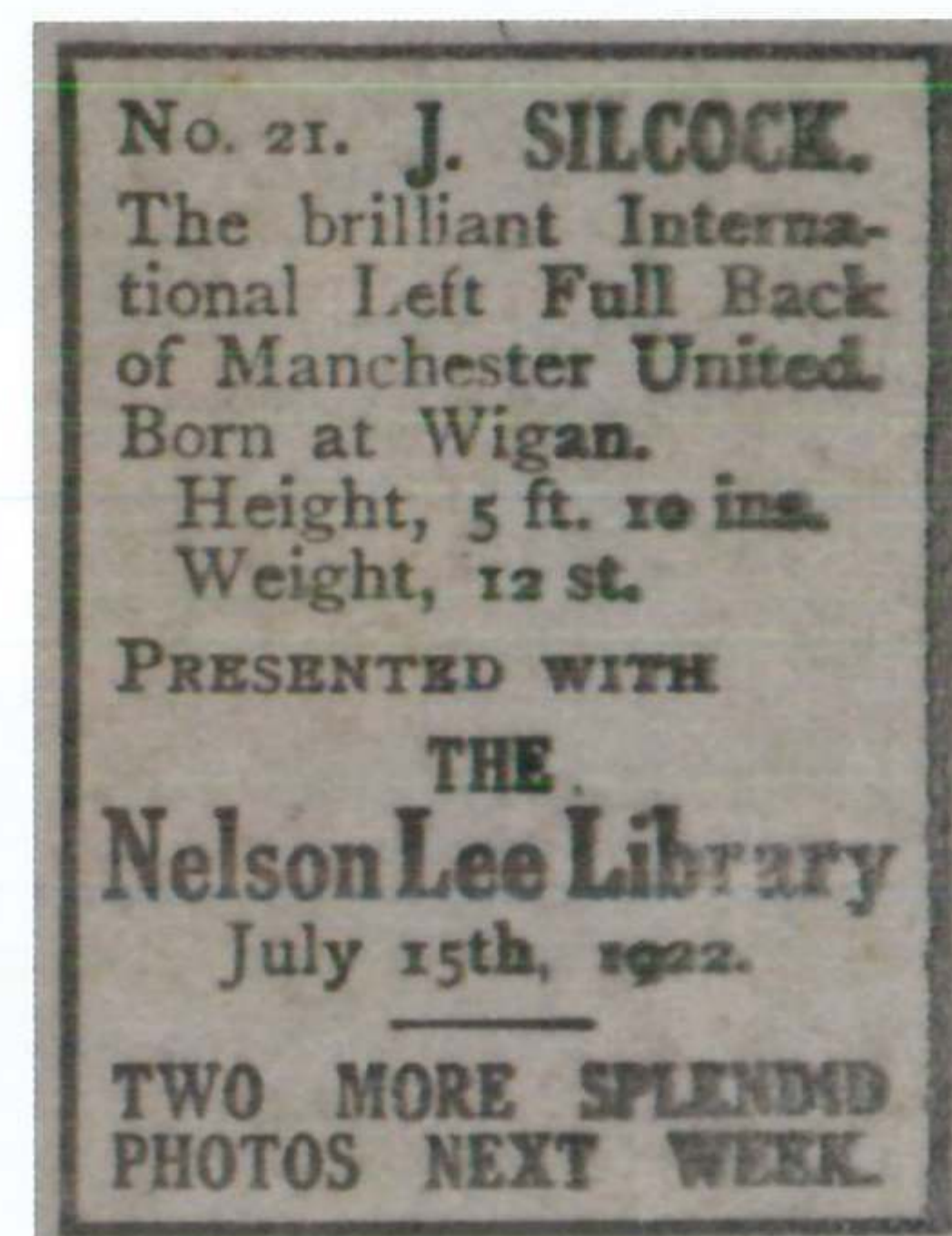
side Atherton, before coming to the attention of then-boss at Old Trafford, John Robson.

After signing first as an amateur in 1916, then as a professional a year later, he represented the Reds in the wartime league, then finally made his competitive debut against Derby County in front of 12,000 fans at the Baseball Ground. A solid first start in a 1-1 draw displayed his potential, and he became a permanent fixture in the side, playing 41 games in 1919/1920 – his highest season tally.

Despite ending his career with

no senior honours, he did win the Lancashire Senior Cup in his first season when United and Liverpool shared the trophy (his medal is pictured above). Sadly his stay coincided with our so-called 'yo-yo years' between Divisions One and Two but he remained a loyal servant to the Reds.

His attributes of accomplished passing from the back, plus strength and reliability, won him three caps for England and three appearances for the Football League representative side,



plus (left) a place in a trial match at Turf Moor in 1921 in which he helped the North England team to a 6-1 win over the South in front of 30,000.

Silcock may not be a household name today, but for a decade and-a-half he represented the Reds with distinction. And his contribution, recalled in the Manchester United museum, will never be forgotten.

## Visit us...

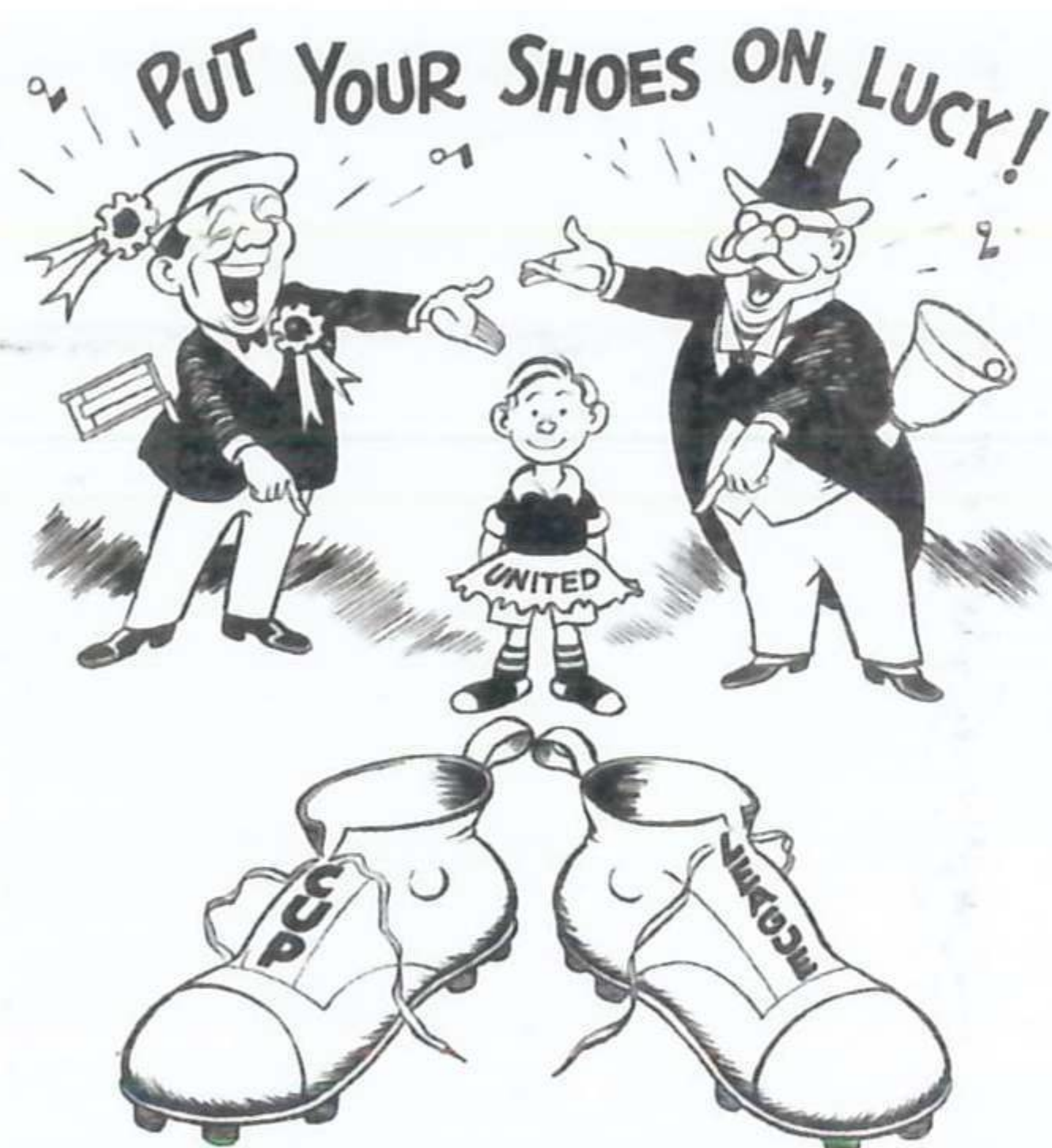
To find out more about United's unsung heroes, visit the museum and take a stadium tour. For details of opening times and tours call 0161 868 8000 (option 3), visit [ManUtd.com](http://ManUtd.com), or email [toursenquiry@manutd.co.uk](mailto:toursenquiry@manutd.co.uk)



J. SILCOCK



OLD TRAFFORD THEME SONG THIS SEASON:-



## Bricks and Bokays

The start of the 1949/50 league season was greeted by this simple, yet striking, edition of the cult cartoon strip. This Red twist on the hit song of the time, sung by Hank Fort, was, in modern parlance, calling for United to 'fill yer boots'.

## Flashback: Eagles' shot at glory

Bolton favourite Chris Eagles is set for a warm welcome from United fans today. The former Carrington Academy kid may have struggled to break into the first team at United, making only 17 appearances in five seasons, but he had a Reds league debut to remember, firing home his one and only goal in dramatic circumstances in April 2007. Coming on as a late sub against Everton at Goodison, in a game we'd been losing 2-0, Eagles (below) scored in injury time to secure a dramatic 4-2 victory, a result that all-but guaranteed the title would be coming home to OT for the first time since 2003. Thanks for the memories, Chris.



## Back in the day

# Red brotherhoods

Will Keane's introduction as a late substitute against Blackburn last month, following a debut for his brother Michael at Aldershot in October, made the Keanes the 11th pair of brothers to have made first-team appearances for United – and the sixth since the 1970s, following these five other recent sets of siblings...

### Jimmy and Brian Greenhoff

Brian (far right) came through the ranks at United, and had been a fixture in the first team for three years before big brother Jimmy – older by seven years – joined from Stoke. The Barnsley-born boys played in the same United side on 80 occasions, and won the FA Cup together in 1977.



### George and Martin Buchan

Martin was first to travel south from Aberdeen (for whom dad, Martin senior, also played) to United in 1971, followed two years later by George, a year younger. Winger George (circled, far left) only made four substitute appearances in his short spell with the Reds, but three of those were alongside his big brother.

### Gary and Phil Neville

The most successful set of brothers in the English domestic game, in 1996 Gary and Phil became the first siblings to win a league championship together since Denis and Les Compton for Arsenal in 1948. They first appeared together in the United first team against Aston Villa in August 1995 (Alan Hansen's favourite match), and played in the same England side on 31 occasions.



### Richard and Adam Eckersley

Salford lads Adam and Richard (far left) came through the youth ranks at United, but the defenders found their first-team opportunities limited. Adam made one appearance, starting in the 4-1 win over Barnet in the 2005 League Cup, while younger brother Richard made four sub appearances, his debut coming in the 2-1 win over Spurs in the 2009 FA Cup. Both now ply their trade abroad – Adam with Aarhus of Denmark, Richard for current Canadian champions Toronto FC.

### Rafael and Fabio da Silva

The Brazilians signed for United in July 2008, with Rafael the first to break into the first team, making his debut on the opening day of the 2008/09 season against Newcastle. Fabio's first start came in January 2009 in the FA Cup against Spurs, and the twins first started a game together in the Cup semi against Everton in April 2009. Arguably their most memorable match in tandem was the FA Cup win over Arsenal last March, when, from midfield, the duo combined for United's opener in the 2-0 win.



\*Jonny Evans played with younger brother Corry in United's game against Philadelphia Union in the 2010 US summer tour, but that doesn't count as a competitive match. Sorry lads!





Schmeichel and Becks get the Champagne flowing to celebrate another title



# Champions: 1996/97

Norwegian imports to the fore as the Reds retain the Premier League crown for Eric's last hurrah

It's tempting to view the 1996/97 campaign through the prism of Eric Cantona's retirement in May; the title win a kind of valedictory tribute to the Frenchman's efforts in transforming the fortunes of Manchester United.

Yet no-one except Eric knew he was going to quit (albeit the manager had his suspicions), and the story of the season is more about the Reds' youngsters maturing and a clutch of imports strengthening an already potent hand.

It began in flamboyant fashion: David Beckham issuing a regal statement of confidence with which

to open the league season (see Goal of the Season, opposite). However, the Reds' progress through the autumn was anything but stately. A clutch of draws followed, before an

extraordinary wobble in October left us looking up at five teams, including – appropriately enough given the bizarre turn of events – the Crazy Gang themselves.

## Player of the Year Ole Gunnar Solskjaer

Super sub? Hardly. Ole made 25 league starts in his debut term and topped the Reds' scoring chart. Having missed out on £15m-worth of Alan Shearer, United had found a title-winning hotshot for a tenth of the price.



Having reeled in Newcastle the previous season, there was always going to be a reaction on Tyneside in our next meeting, but few foresaw the 5-0 drubbing meted out by Ginola, Ferdinand, Albert and co at St James' Park. A week later the Reds shipped six on the south coast, stunned by a finishing masterclass from Southampton's Eyal Berkovic and Matt Le Tissier at the Dell. And a home defeat to Chelsea had the 'United in crisis' scribes in full flow.

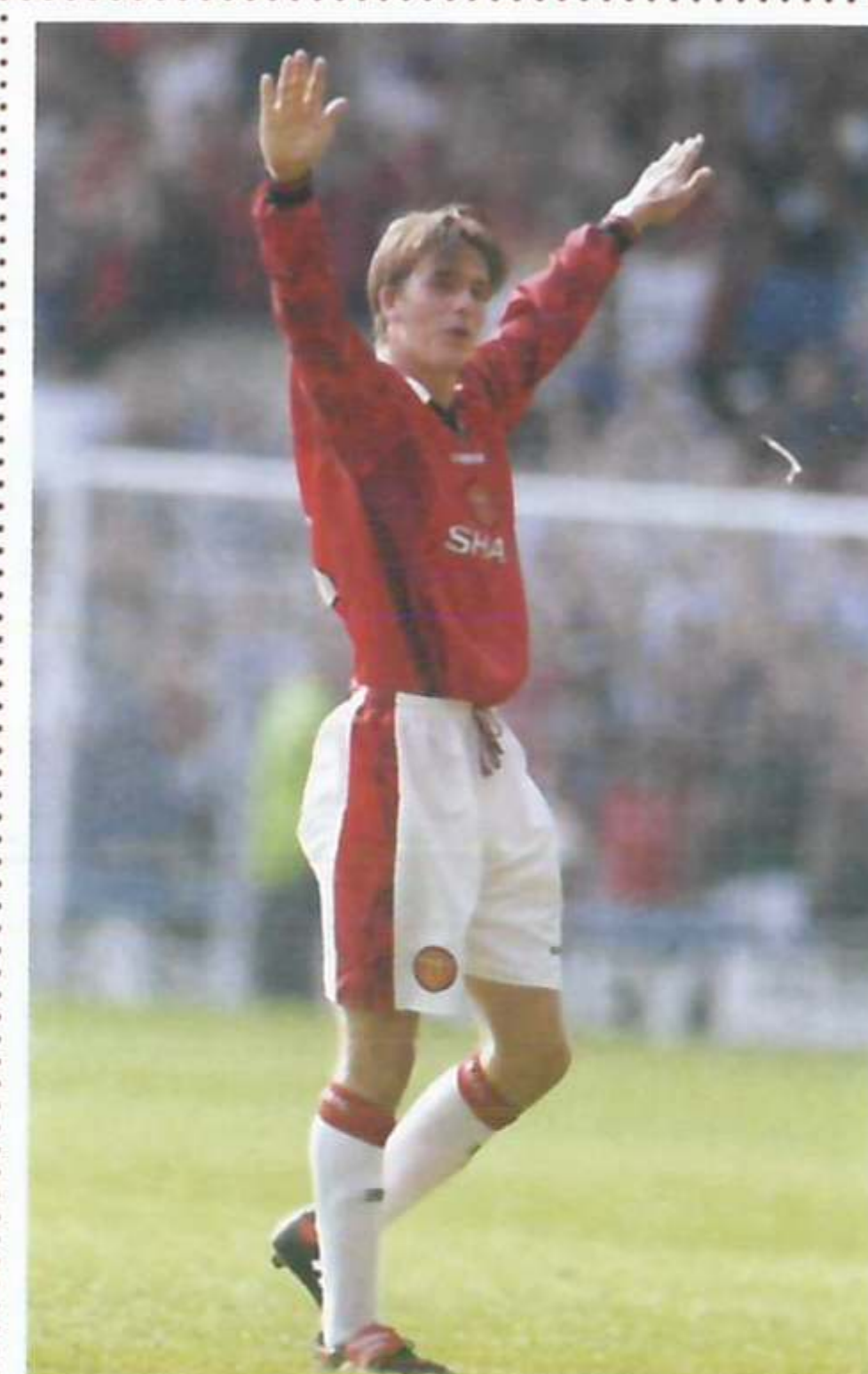
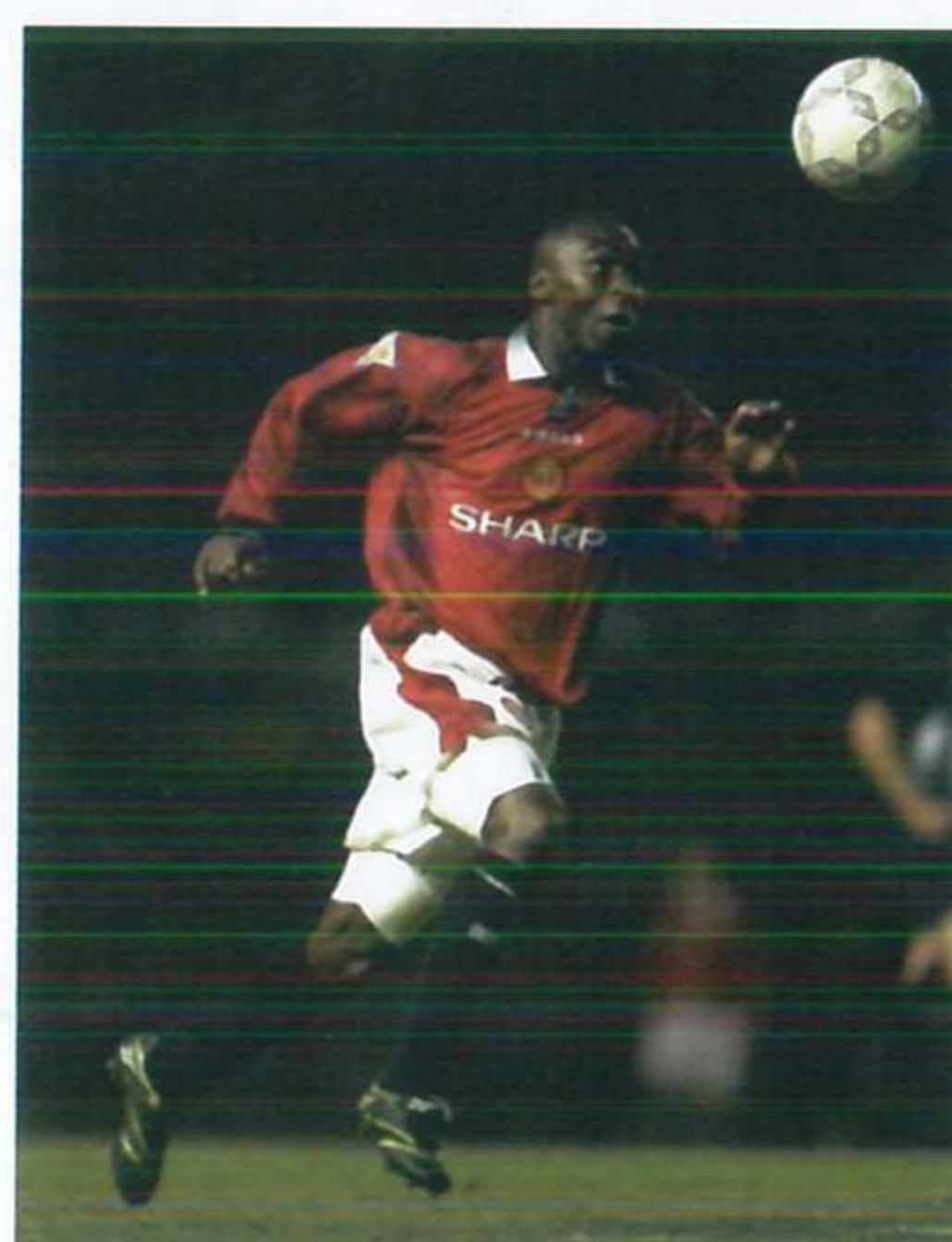
But history tells us a run of defeats is not the end of the world, nor an era, nor even a season (doom-mongers, take note). Stung into action, United



## Our 19 titles



Pally can't believe he's scored a brace at Anfield; neither can anyone else.



### Goal of the season

The award is wrapped up before 90 minutes of the season have elapsed. Two-nil up and cruising at Selhurst Park, Becks spots Neil Sullivan off his line and floats the ball from inside his own half over the backpedalling keeper and into the Wimbledon net.

went unbeaten for 16 league games, after which, despite a reverse at Sunderland, the Reds were three points clear of nearest challengers Arsenal, with a game in hand.

A key contributor to this ascent of the league was new boy Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. Unknown to the public, and widely assumed to be bench fodder behind Cantona and Andy Cole (above right), the young Norwegian streaked into English football consciousness in his first term at OT (see Player of the Year, left).

With Nicky Butt pulling the strings in midfield, Giggs and Becks flourishing out wide and another Norwegian acquisition, Ronny Johnsen (top), establishing himself at centre-half, Sir Alex rotated his

### Most-played team

Schmeichel

G Neville – May – Johnsen – Irwin  
Beckham – Butt – Keane – Giggs  
Solskjaer – Cantona

troops with a new flexibility. His 92/93 title winning side had had an immovable core – the top-eight league appearance makers missed just five games between them all season – but this was a more fluid machine: the top-eight appearance makers for 96/97 were rested from 47 matches in total.

The team hit peak form in a 4-0 thrashing of Porto in the Champions League quarter-final, and despite the

disappointment of going out to Borussia Dortmund in the semis, wins over Blackburn and Liverpool gave the Reds breathing space at the top as May rolled around.

Into the final week, United drew 3-3 with Middlesbrough at OT on the Monday, and with both Newcastle and Liverpool failing to win the

following evening – against West Ham and Wimbledon respectively – the title was ours once again.

A couple of days after Sunday's title jamboree, Cantona dropped his bombshell, but his work was done. Suffused with his spirit of adventure, United could go on without him, to yet greater glory.

### Premier League final table 1996/97

|                       | P  | W  | D  | L  | F  | A  | Pts |
|-----------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| 1 Manchester United   | 38 | 21 | 12 | 5  | 76 | 44 | 75  |
| 2 Newcastle United    | 38 | 19 | 11 | 8  | 73 | 40 | 68  |
| 3 Arsenal             | 38 | 19 | 11 | 8  | 62 | 32 | 68  |
| 4 Liverpool           | 38 | 19 | 11 | 8  | 62 | 37 | 68  |
| 5 Aston Villa         | 38 | 17 | 10 | 11 | 47 | 34 | 61  |
| 6 Chelsea             | 38 | 16 | 11 | 11 | 58 | 55 | 59  |
| 7 Sheffield Wednesday | 38 | 14 | 15 | 9  | 50 | 51 | 57  |
| 8 Wimbledon           | 38 | 15 | 11 | 12 | 49 | 46 | 56  |
| 9 Leicester City      | 38 | 12 | 11 | 15 | 46 | 54 | 47  |
| 10 Tottenham Hotspur  | 38 | 13 | 7  | 18 | 44 | 51 | 46  |
| 11 Leeds United       | 38 | 11 | 13 | 14 | 28 | 38 | 46  |
| 12 Derby County       | 38 | 11 | 13 | 14 | 45 | 58 | 46  |
| 13 Blackburn Rovers   | 38 | 9  | 15 | 14 | 42 | 43 | 42  |
| 14 West Ham United    | 38 | 10 | 12 | 16 | 39 | 48 | 42  |
| 15 Everton            | 38 | 10 | 12 | 16 | 44 | 57 | 42  |
| 16 Southampton        | 38 | 10 | 11 | 17 | 50 | 56 | 41  |
| 17 Coventry City      | 38 | 9  | 14 | 15 | 38 | 54 | 41  |
| 18 Sunderland         | 38 | 10 | 10 | 18 | 35 | 53 | 40  |
| 19 Middlesbrough      | 38 | 10 | 12 | 16 | 51 | 60 | 39  |
| 20 Nottingham Forest  | 38 | 6  | 16 | 16 | 31 | 59 | 34  |

### Top 5 goalscorers

Ole Solskjaer: 18  
Eric Cantona: 11  
David Beckham: 8  
Andy Cole: 6  
Nicky Butt: 5



### Top 5 appearance makers

Peter Schmeichel: 36  
Eric Cantona: 36  
David Beckham: 36  
Ole Solskjaer: 33  
G Neville/D Irwin/  
R Johnsen: 31







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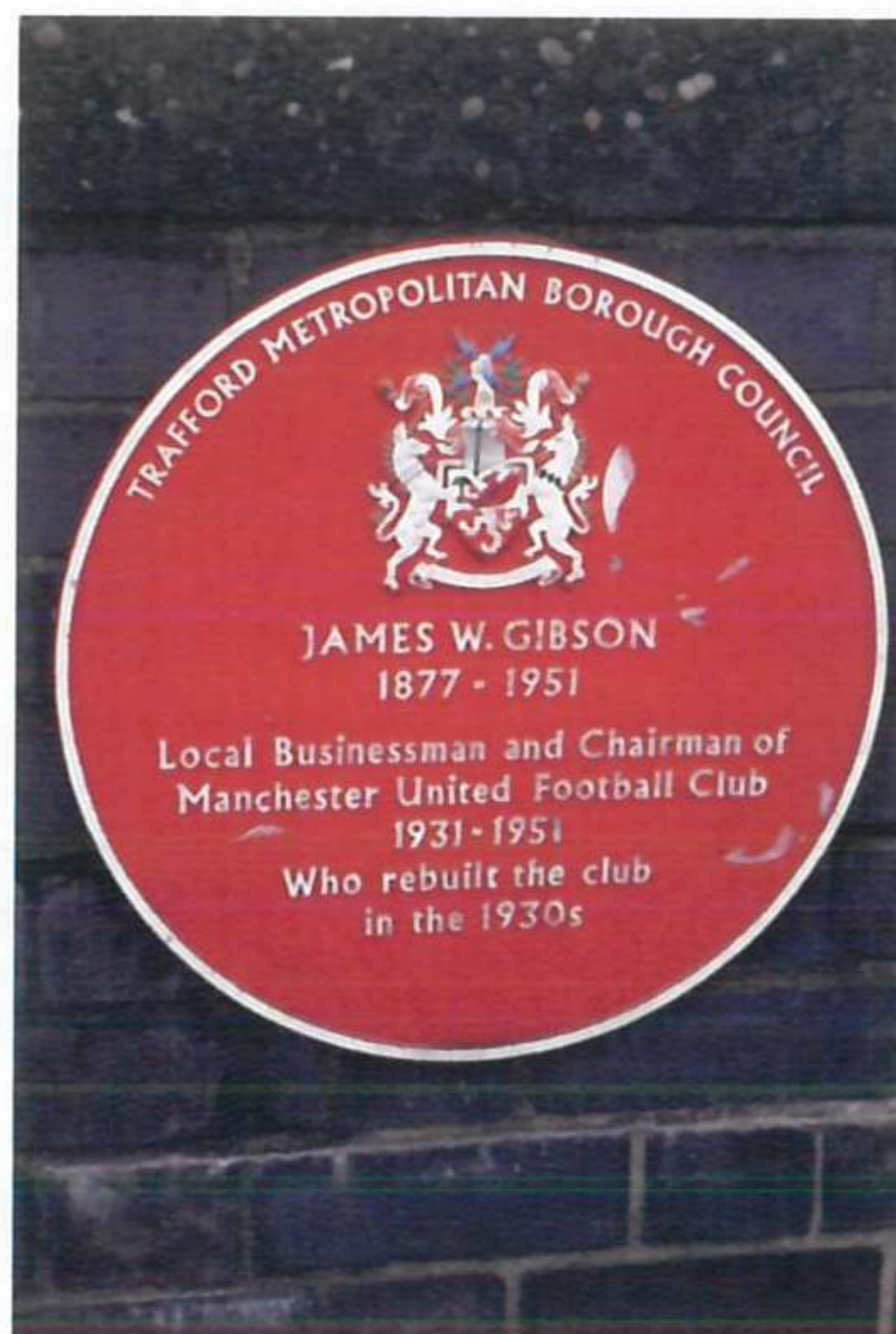


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James Gibson steadied the club; (far right) the 1935/36 team line-up



# The man who saved United

*United Review* recalls the contribution made by **James Gibson** to the Reds 80 years ago this week

**M**anchester United fans have a lot to thank James William Gibson for – though, most probably don't know it. On Thursday it will be exactly 80 years since the Salford-born, Old Trafford-based businessman made true his pledge to save his local football club. But for his intervention, the Reds might not be the sporting institution of today or, possibly, even in existence.

In December 1931 United were on the brink: the players hadn't been paid for weeks, results were poor and attendances tiny (just 4,697 for the visit of Bristol City on 19 December).

After years of decline there was genuine fear that, barely two decades after being crowned champions of England for a second time, Manchester United might be declared bankrupt.

What happened next changed the course of this club's history and, more importantly, ensured there would actually be one. Club secretary Walter Crickmer met a local businessman who loved his sport (essentially rugby and cricket). While not a great football fan, the proprietor of a uniform manufacturers was reluctant to let one of the city's institutions disappear and agreed to help out – making £2,000

immediately available to the club. That money helped pay for match travel expenses and general expenditure but also for the players' Christmas turkeys!

It was a stay of execution, but more was required to stave off the threat of extinction. On 21 December 1931, Gibson – who had agreed to pay the club's bills until 9 January 1932 – convinced the United board of directors that they should resign at a point in the future convenient for him.

On 5 January he outlined plans to reorganise the club board and became a director, an overhaul that came to fruition on 19 January when the board resigned and he took full control, clearing all debts. The club was saved.

Last month a special tribute marked Gibson's first dealings with United. The short ceremony, by the plaque in his memory on Sir Matt Busby Way (top), was attended by club officials, supporters and members of the Embling family (Gibson's relatives). The location was fitting, being in view of the stadium's railway station – funded by Gibson and made possible after he negotiated with the railways.

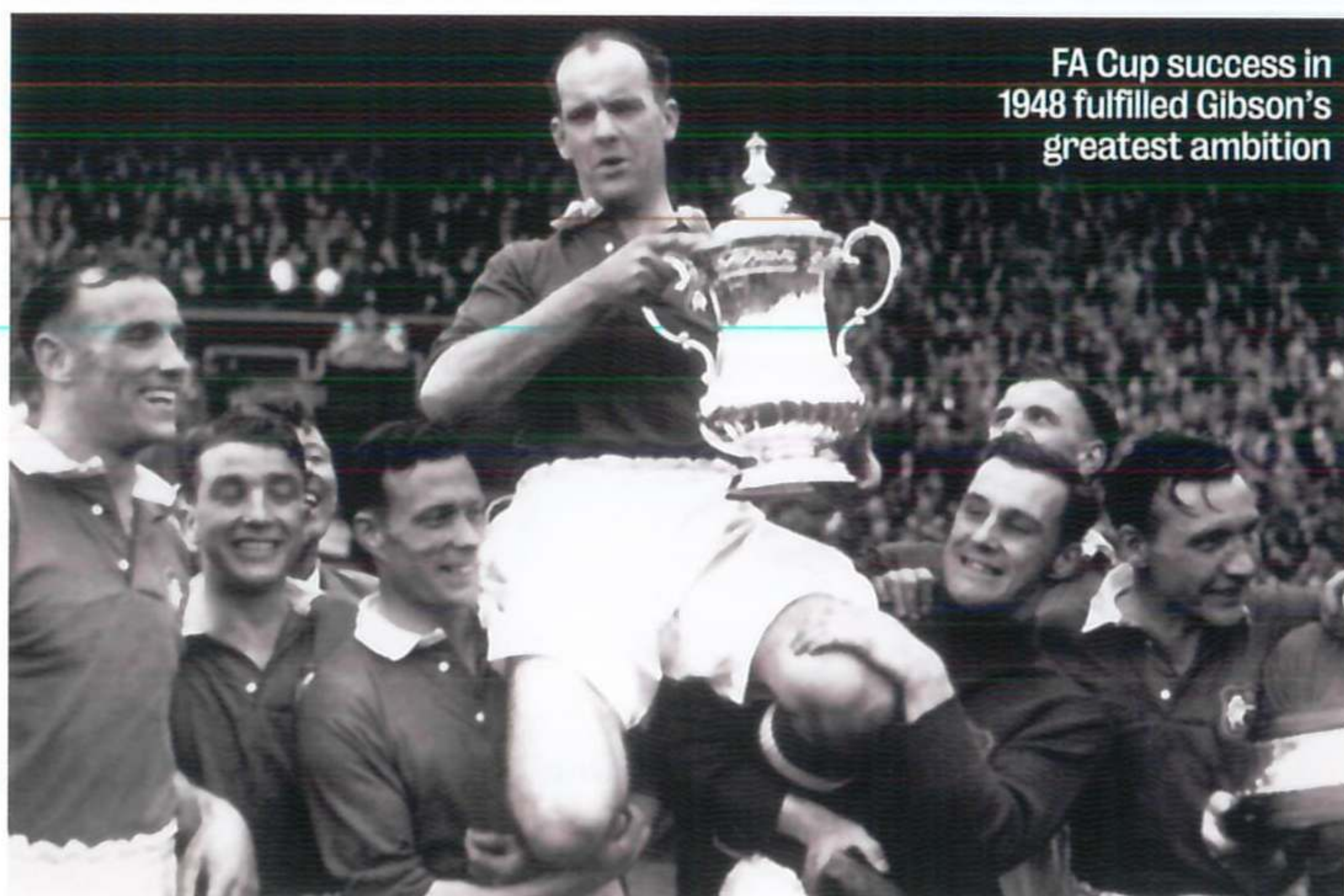
That was only one of the legacies of his chairmanship, from 1932-1951. He provided funds for Crickmer and Louis



Rocca to form the club's first youth system (Manchester United Junior Athletic Club), saw the Reds through the Great Depression then WWII, appointed Matt Busby as manager in 1945 and funded the rebuilding of Old Trafford after a German air raid destroyed the main stand.

When Sir Matt's first great side landed the FA Cup in 1948, the chairman – too ill to attend the Wembley showpiece after suffering a stroke – welcomed home his victorious side with the words: "You have fulfilled my greatest ambition."

Sadly, Gibson lost his life in 1951 – a few months before Busby's men won a first league title in 41 years. His demise ended a reign light on trophies but one which had laid the foundations for great success. For that, all Reds fans should be grateful even now.



FA Cup success in 1948 fulfilled Gibson's greatest ambition



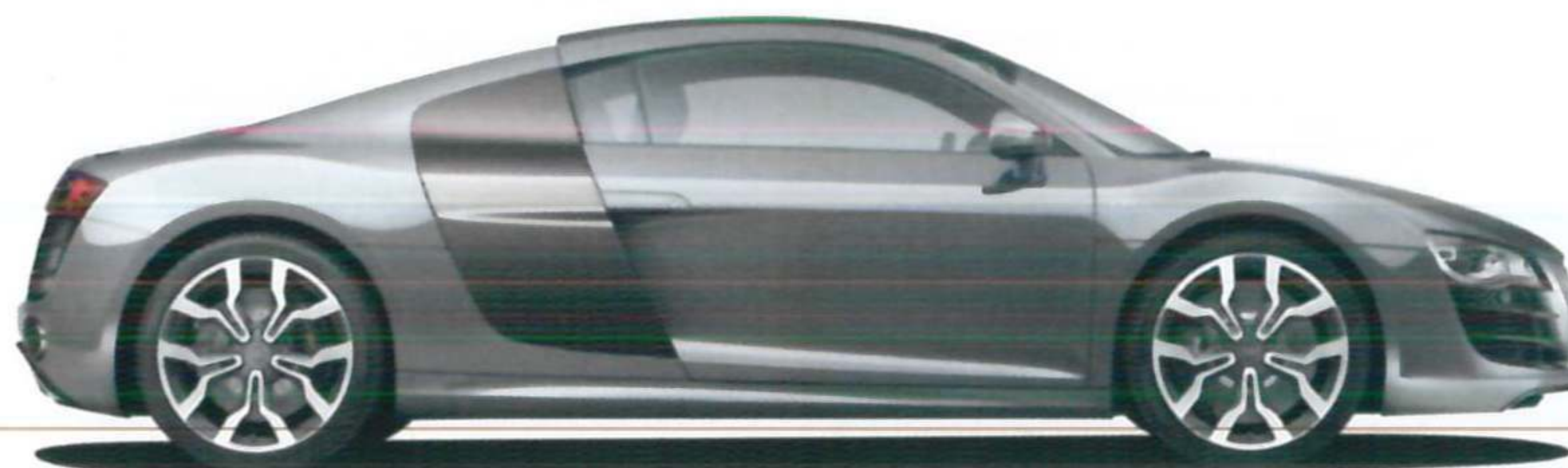
# A team with history.



1968



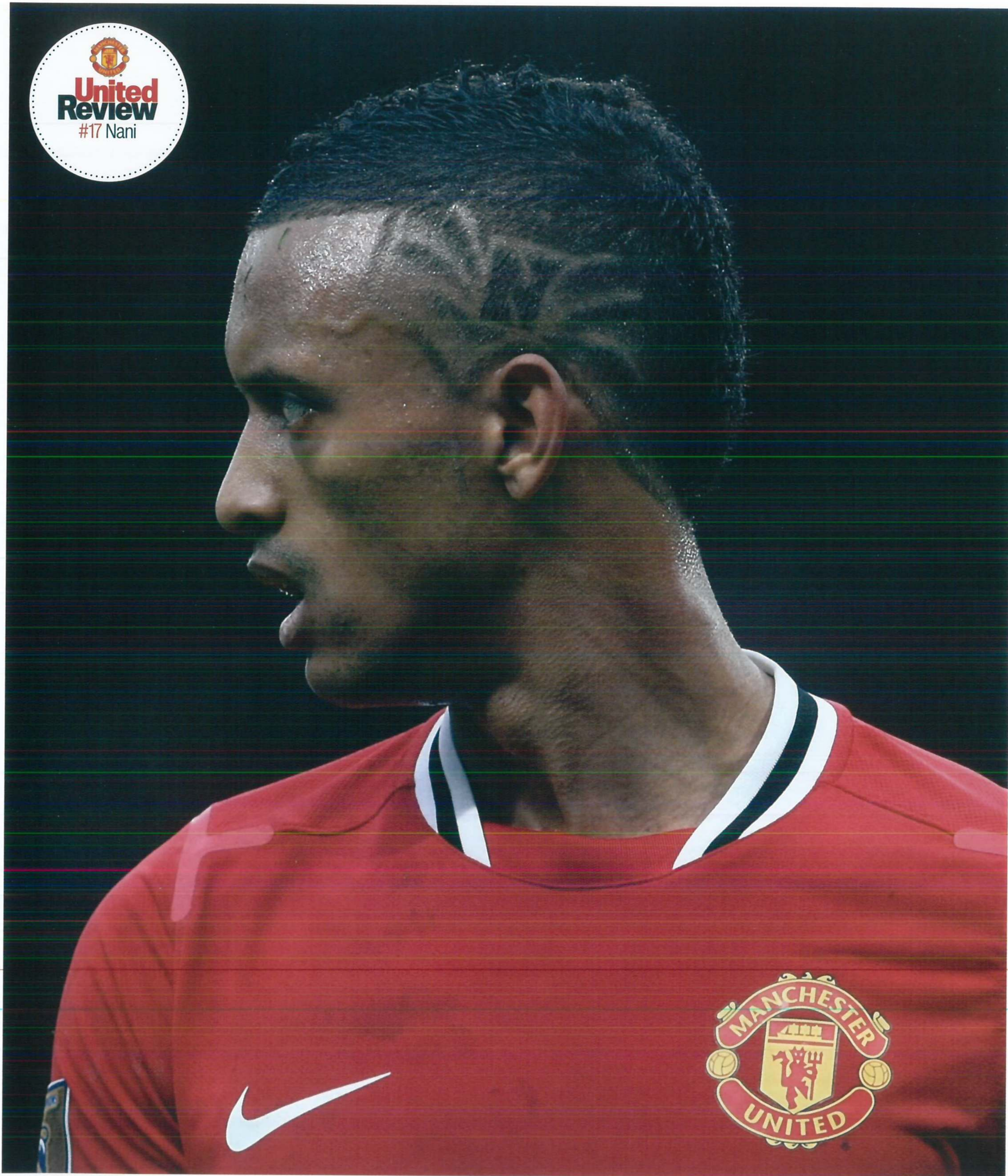
1999



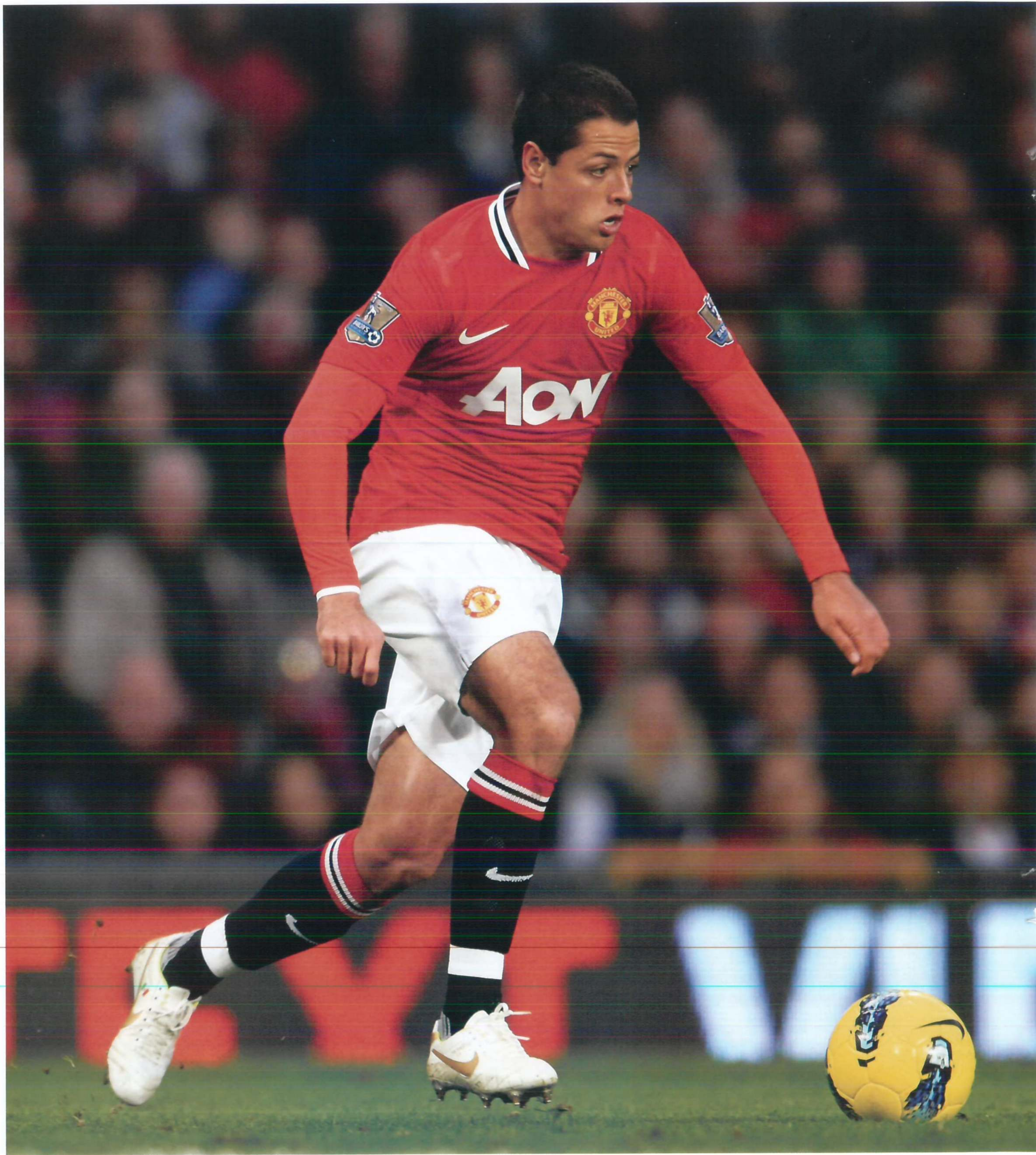
2008



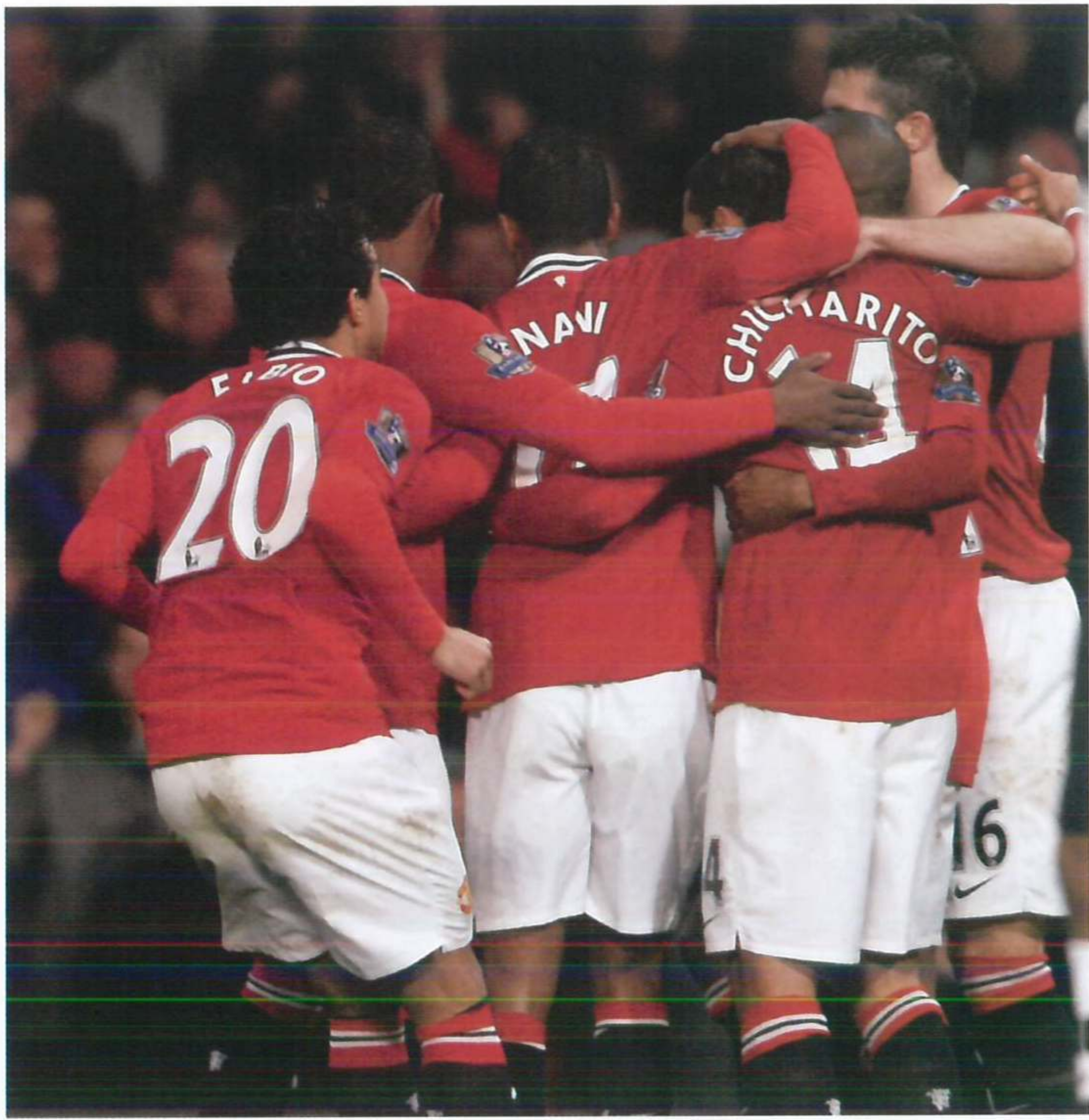
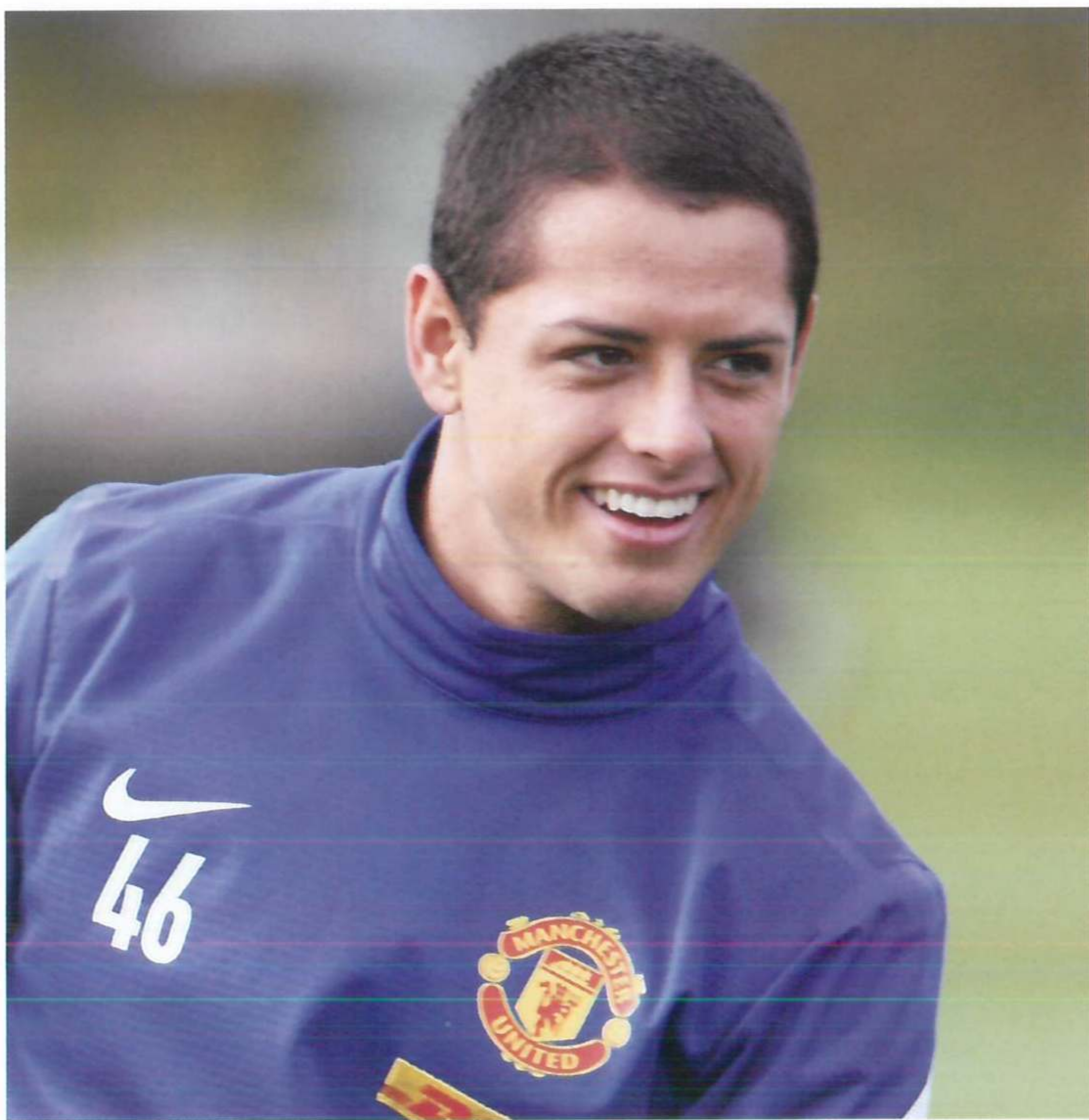






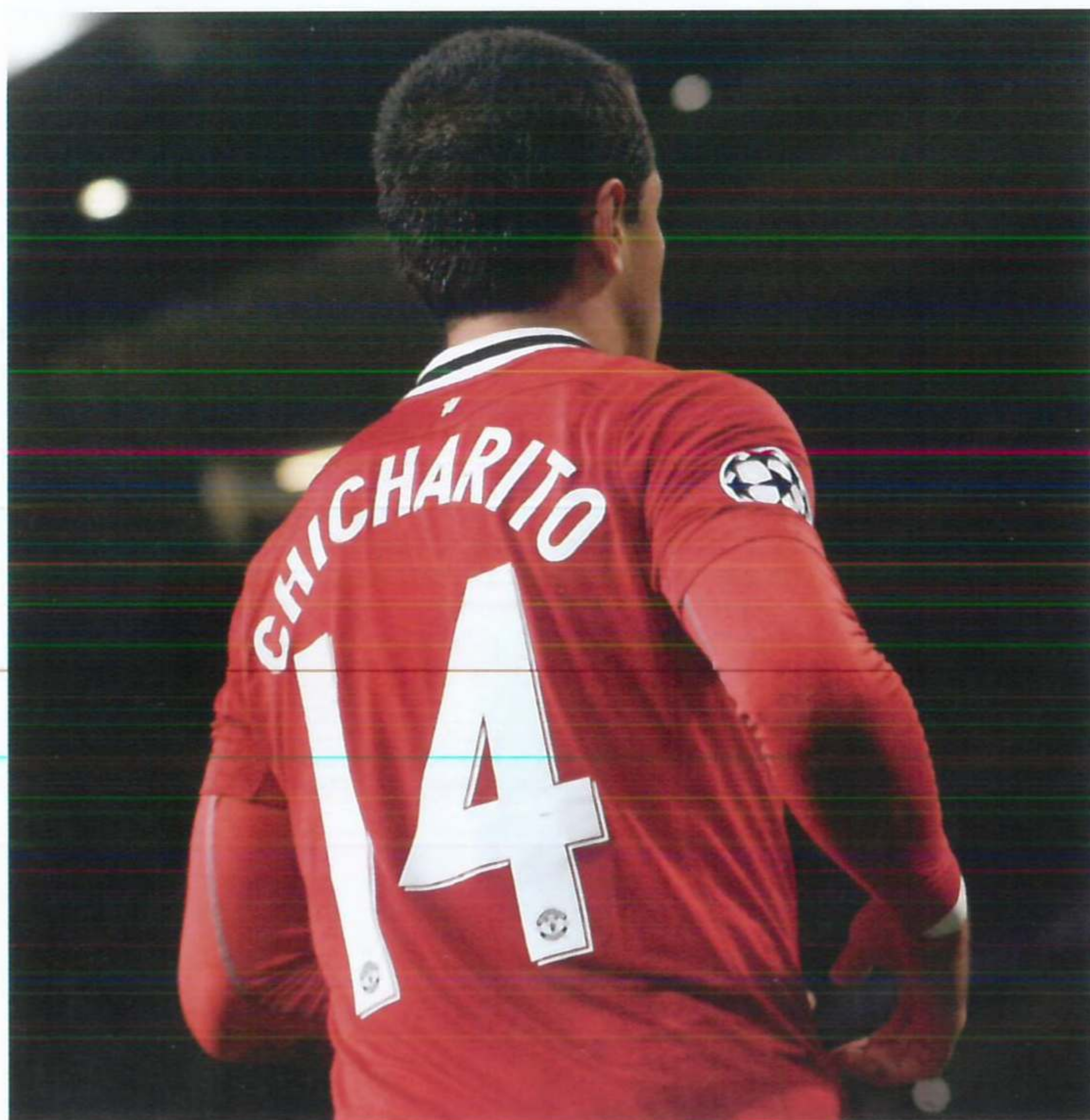




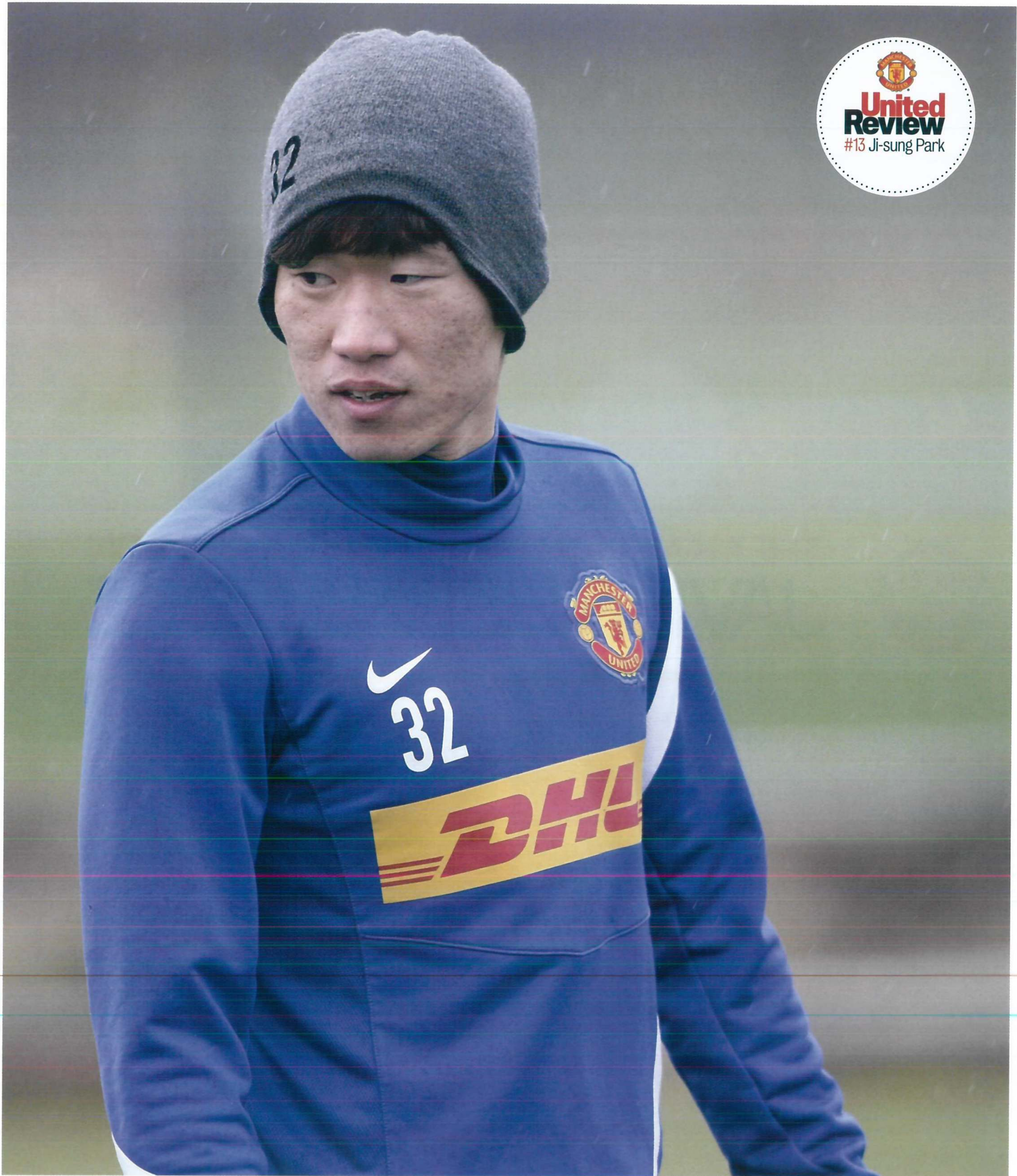


# THE MANCHESTER UNITED COLLECTION

## JAVIER HERNANDEZ













# Centre of excellence

**Michael Carrick** has quietly evolved into an integral part of the United midfield and now, according to Sir Alex, the time is right for him to become the Reds' pivotal player...

**T**here are a number of different ways to make your mark at Manchester United.

While famed midfield battlers Bryan Robson, Pat Crerand and Roy Keane carved their legends with axes, rather than scalpels, Michael Carrick is carefully etching himself into indispensability for the current incarnation of Sir Alex's side.

The softly spoken North-Easterner is a midfielder for the modern game. Nick possession, keep possession. Simple, but devastating to those who are chasing the ball. The evolution away from old-school enforcers means top-class midfields are no longer patrolled with menace. Rather, they are courtyards for craft, as the best exponents merge athleticism, dexterity and vision. Few blend those virtues as expertly as United's no.16.

Addressing the nation's media before Christmas, Sir Alex declared: "Michael has been one of our best players. He's been instrumental in what's happening to the team at the

moment. He's grabbed the nettle – there's no question about that.

"I think it's time Michael became the pivotal player of our team.

We've always known he's got that in him. He's a laid-back character – quiet, unassuming – but in different periods during his time here he's shown his quality. Now is the time for him to start a long period of

dominating the centre of midfield."

Finally free of an Achilles injury that disrupted more than a year of his career, Carrick's importance in the Old Trafford machine is indisputable in a campaign where he has kept the cogs moving despite a spate of long-term injuries in central areas. Anderson, Tom Cleverley, Darren Fletcher and Darron Gibson have all

missed or continue to miss sizeable portions of the season, while Paul Scholes' retirement U-turn has only just placed an extra weapon at Sir Alex's disposal.

While praise has been forthcoming from all in football, and especially within the confines of Carrington, recognition for Carrick's endeavours has been comparatively muted among some sections of the United support. The problem is that in every position at Old Trafford, illustrious forebears cast inescapable shadows.

Roy Keane and Paul Scholes loom largest as two of the outstanding central midfielders of the Premier League's history, and their exploits are still fresh enough in the memory – especially now that the latter has returned for an encore – to invoke comparisons for anybody brave enough to follow them.

Having ended a 70-game goal drought at QPR last month, Carrick's scoring ratio compares unfavourably with that of Scholes, who has averaged a goal every five games. Nor does he



Sir Alex: "Michael's been one of our best players"

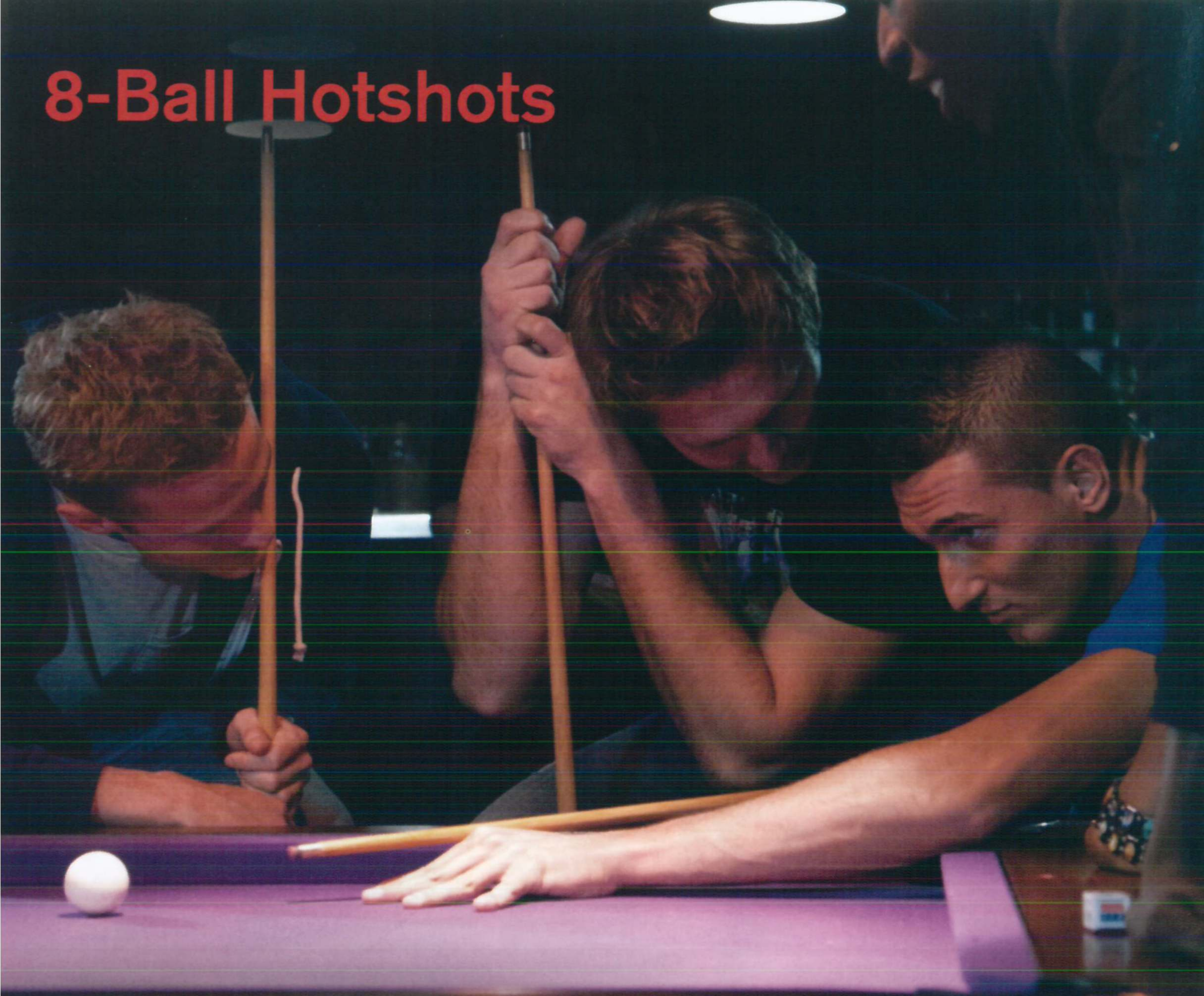


Midfield main man





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## Midfield main man

bang heads with the ferocity of Keane. In his five and a half seasons at Old Trafford, Carrick has picked up eight Premier League bookings. Keane mustered as many in 35 appearances during United's Treble season.

But such juxtapositions, in this instance, are rendered futile on grounds of differences in style and role. Scholes knows better than most just how important Carrick has been, and will continue to prove, to the Reds' ambitions.

"I've always found him very easy to play with," says the veteran midfielder. "He's capable of doing anything. He can score goals, he can create goals, he's a great passer of the ball, he's a big strong lad with a lot of presence, he can run all day long.

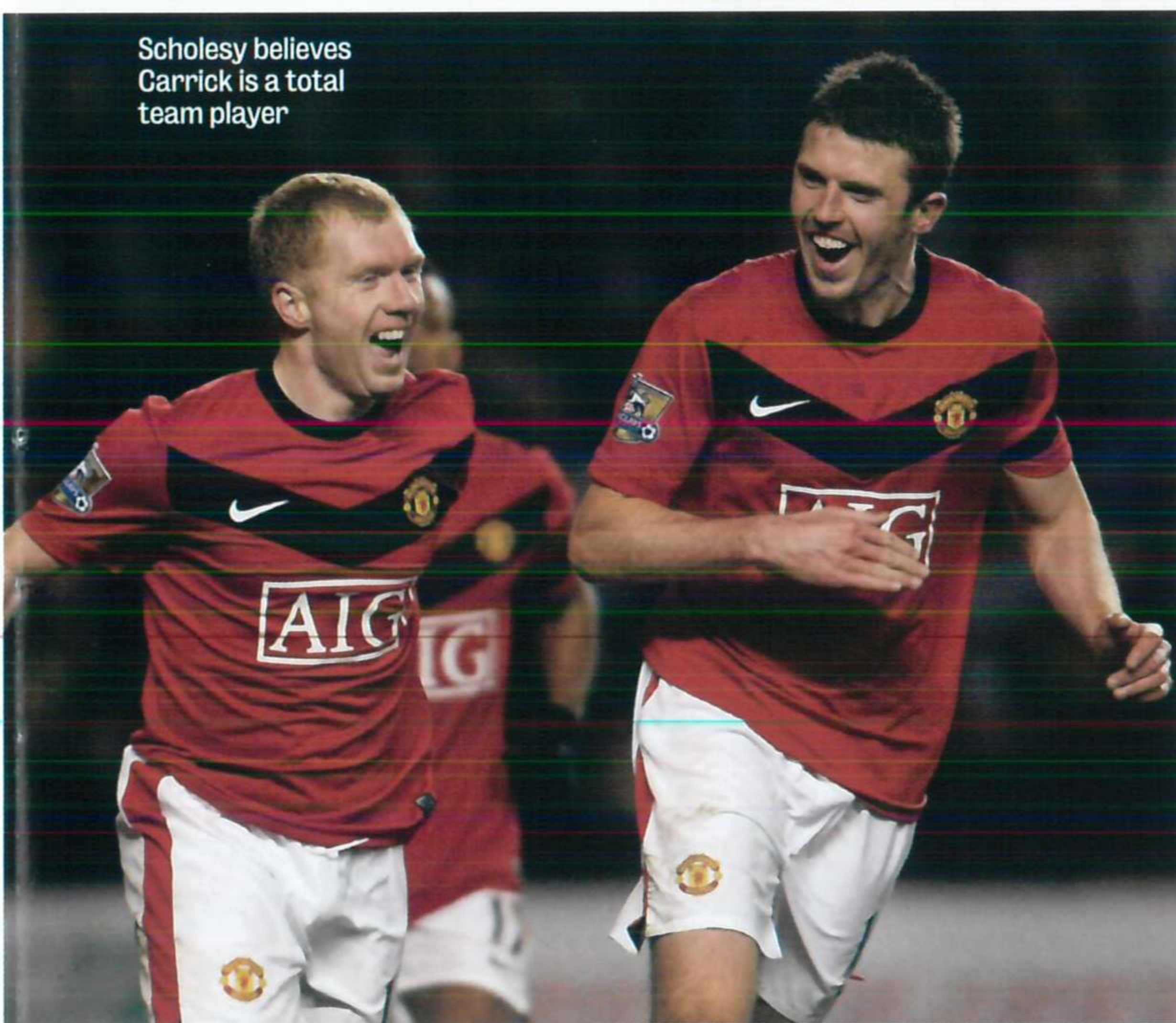
"Over the last six years at the club he's been terrific, one of the most underrated players that the Premier League has had. Since he's come we've won the league in all but one season – that says it all. You need players like Michael to be successful. He's a total team player, which players around him really appreciate.

"There's no better player at just keeping the ball and keeping it simple," Scholesy adds. "You wouldn't want to be on the opposing team when you're chasing the game, because Michael's great at keeping the ball. He can hit long passes as well as



Michael finds the net for the Reds at QPR last month

Scholesy believes Carrick is a total team player



short passes. He's such an unselfish player, players really look forward to playing with him.

"From playing with him, from Ryan Giggs playing with him, from Wayne Rooney playing with him, we all recognise how important he is to the team and at the end of the day that's the important thing: that your team-mates know what you're doing in the team. As long as they and the manager are happy, that's all that matters."

Having played through a period of seismic change in the way football is officiated, Scholes recognises the evolution of the role of a midfielder, and Carrick stands comparison with any of the more tenacious middle men of the most opulent period of United's history.

"Michael is a different breed to the likes of Nicky (Butt) and Roy (Keane)," he admits. "They were brilliant and so is Michael, in a different way. He brings a calmness to the game and he parades around

the pitch like a Rolls-Royce. He's a great athlete and he has quality too, which helps.

"The game has changed, without doubt. You can't tackle like Roy and Nicky used to be able to. Maybe some of the things they did would be frowned upon now! Michael's sensible, he's never in any trouble – he's never had any disciplinary problems. He's just a calm and calculated person who's always thinking of the best way to do something, rather than doing it the nasty way. He's something of a saintly figure – he'll never answer back to referees or have a go at them. That's what he brings to this team: a relaxed attitude which transfers to the rest of the team as well.

"To be a central midfielder at this club you have to take responsibility, take the ball all the time, defend at times and be prepared to drive the team on to score goals and win games. Michael does all of those things – he can do everything." ◀





# My Space for Sport

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Idris Elba, actor and musician

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## Midfield main man

Carrick's effectiveness is underlined in the more considered arena of European football. It's noteworthy that his absence for the first time in 19 successive Champions League away ties coincided with United's shock defeat at Basel. In the previous 18, Carrick had tasted defeat just once – the last-minute reverse at Bayern Munich in 2010.

The 30-year-old has been paired with a variety of midfield partners this season – and has also reprised his moonlighting role in defence when necessary – but Sir Alex's praise has set the scene for Carrick to man the United engine room for the foreseeable future.

Typically, the midfielder is keeping calm in the face of such a prospect. "When the boss says good things about you, then it's pleasing," he admits, "but it is a team thing and we want to be winning as a team. I'm happy with the way I've played, but that doesn't count for much – we win as a team and lose as a team, it's as simple as that."

"I haven't changed as a player. But as you get older and gain more experience, maybe that brings more responsibility. You're looked at slightly differently and that's fine, I'm comfortable with that. This is the way I've always played. I'm not going to change because situations change. You've got to do what you're good at and keep improving. I enjoy the responsibility and as you get older maybe the younger players look at you in a different way. I'm comfortable with that."

"This is my sixth season here now and I feel I've improved every season since I've been here. I've had some better spells than others, but that's just natural. You've got to take on board other things – as I said, responsibility – but that's just part and parcel of the team growing and changing as the years go by."

As he continues to carve out his own legacy, Michael Carrick may be one of the few constants in the evolution of this rapidly developing side at Manchester United.



Michael lifts the Premier League trophy last May



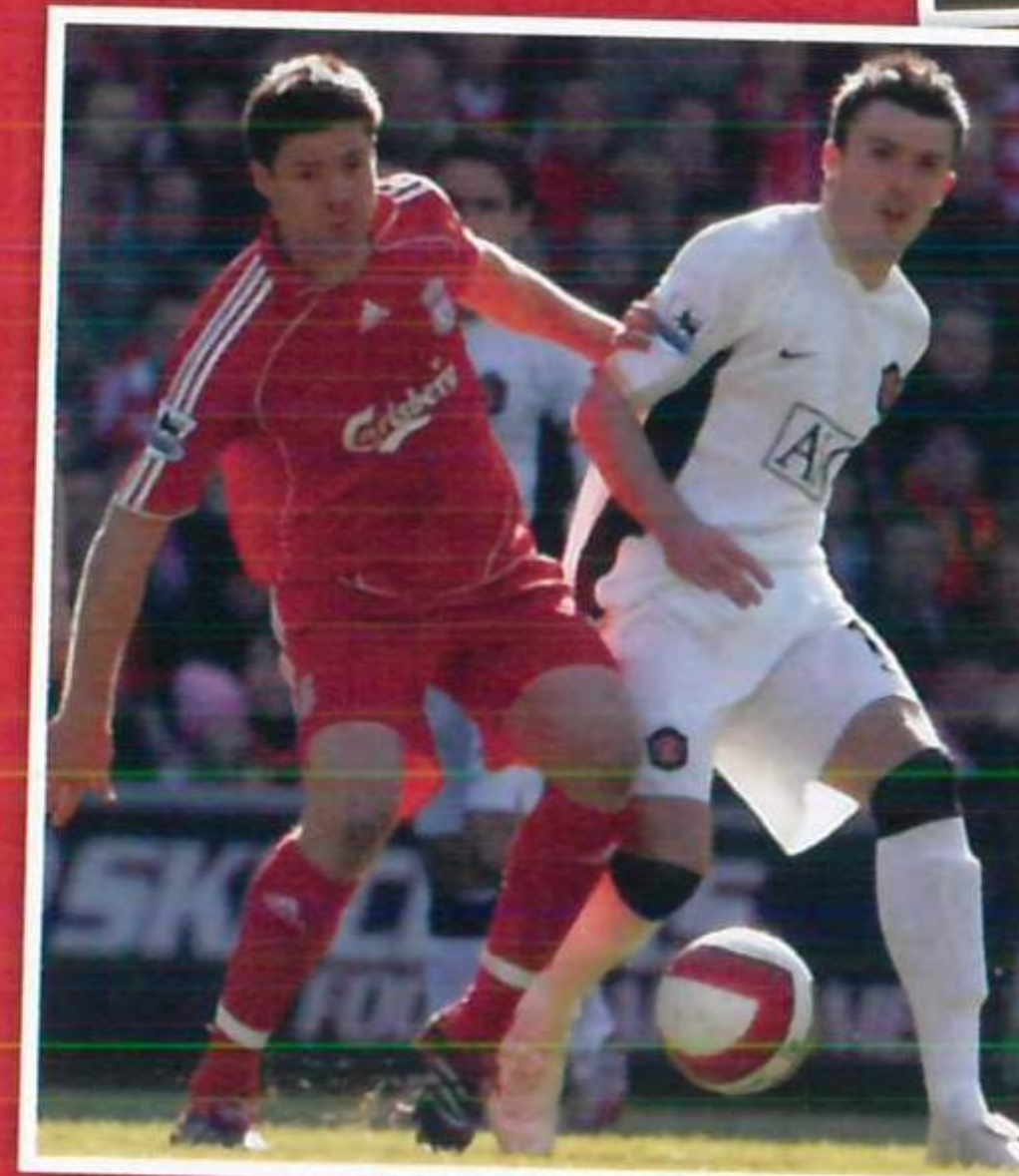
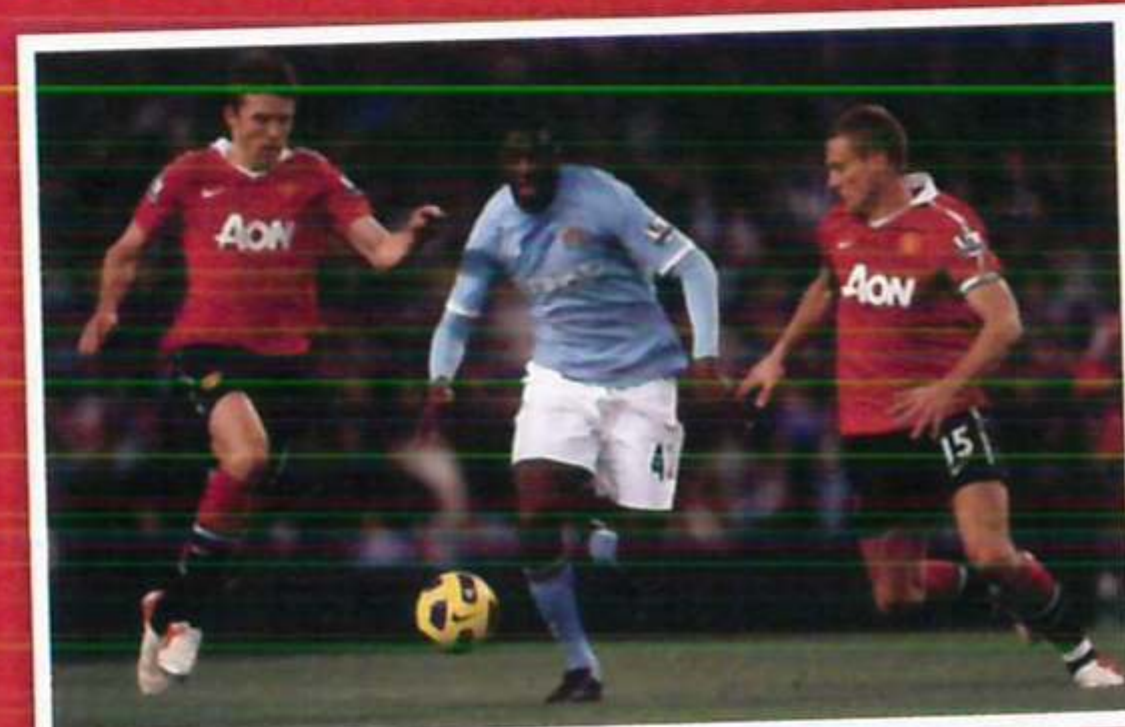
A hug from the captain after scoring at QPR

## Throngs of praise

### Carrick's virtues unite friends and foes...

"He doesn't often do fancy tricks, but for our team he plays a key role. He takes up good positions so the defenders can always pass to him and he defends very well."

**Nemanja Vidic**



"I've missed a player like Michael Carrick in the England midfield, somebody who knows how to be in the right place at the right time."

**Xabi Alonso**

"Michael's a top player. He's got good feet, he can pass long and short. But he also defends well and screens the back four."

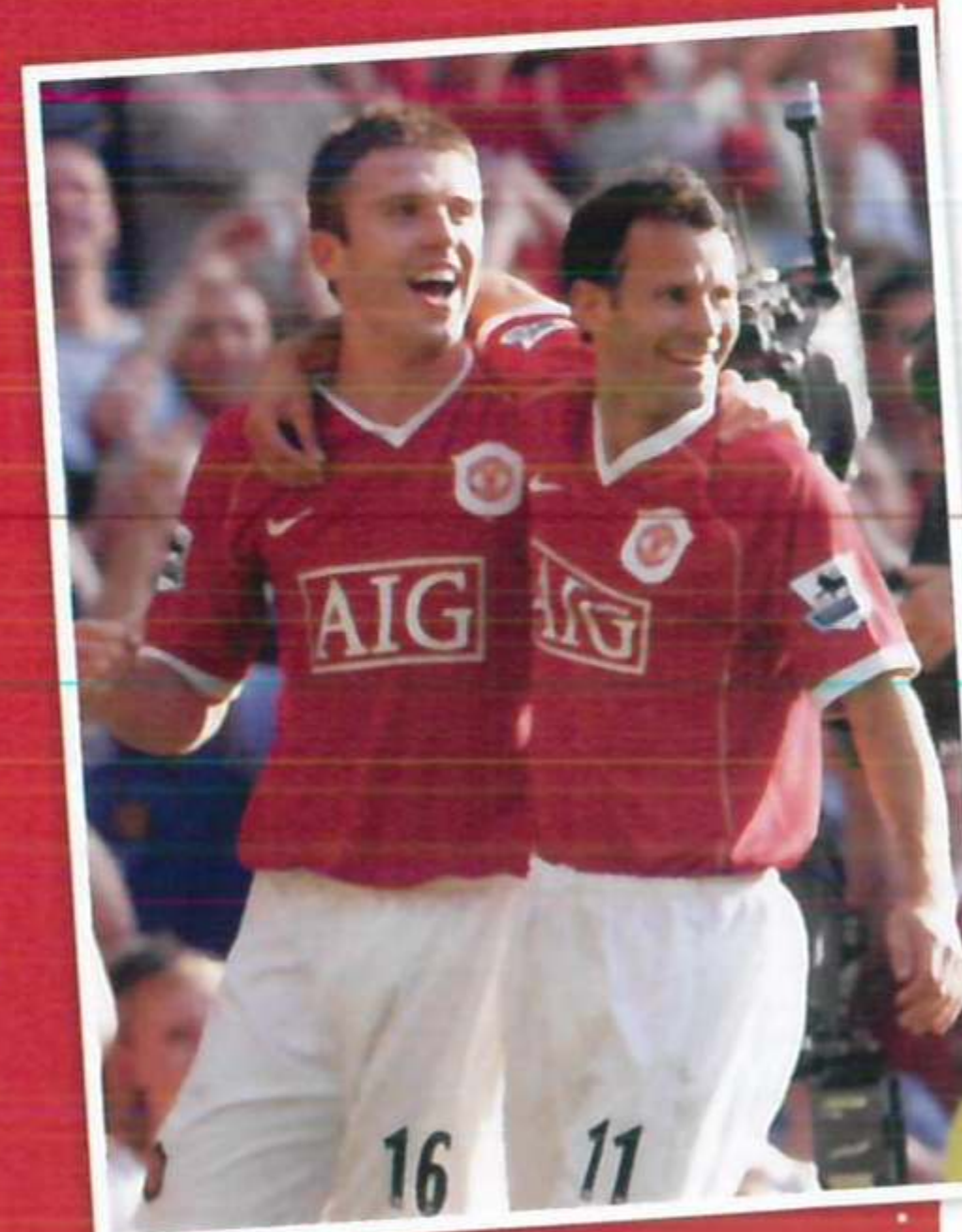
**Ryan Giggs**

"Carrick gives United balance and can play defensively too. He passes well, has a good shot and is a complete player."

**Xavi Hernandez**

"I don't think everybody realises what he does for the team. He's massively underrated. He seems to have this sixth sense: he knows where to be, where the ball's going to be, he's always in the right place at the right time to either receive the ball or break up an attack."

**Phil Jones**





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# United Reserves



Head coach  
Warren Joyce

## Warren Joyce's side are all set for an exciting second half to the season



## All to play for Second string looking good

United finished 2011 top of the Barclays Premier Reserve League and safely through to the semi-finals of the Lancashire Senior Cup, with a trip to the United States to look forward to in early April.

Warren Joyce's young side will participate in the Dallas Cup – a tournament that will welcome players of a similar age from many of the

world's top sides – in order to obtain more valuable experience. Matches will be played from April 1-8, and Joyce is looking forward to the challenge it will provide for his players.

"We will be taking a team that have been together for a while, the majority of which were involved in winning the Youth Cup last season," said Joyce. "It's good experience for the lads to

play teams from different cultures and it's a great opportunity for us all."

Of more immediate concern for the young Reds will be returning to top spot in the Premier Reserve League table. The postponement of the clash at Newcastle, one of a number of recent fixture rearrangements, has enabled Sunderland to move above United in the table, albeit after playing three games more than the Reds.

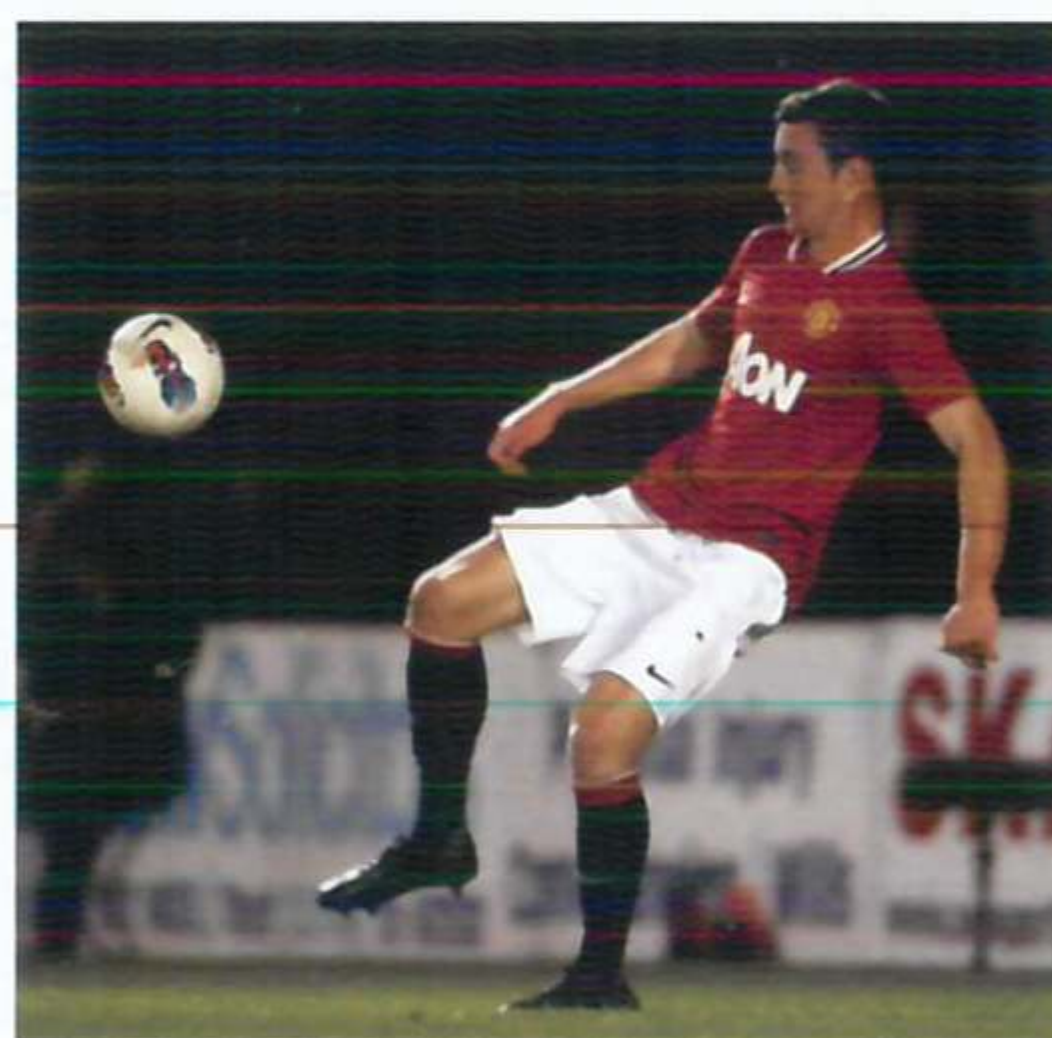
A trip to Chester's Exacta Stadium to face Liverpool on Monday 16 January will allow Joyce's team the opportunity to regain the lead at the summit, but of greater concern for the coach is the development of his players. He's pleased with the strides he's seen so far this term: "I think some of the boys have progressed well after impressing in the FA Youth Cup last season."



### Blackburn 0 United 4

Diouf 15, 32, Lingard 80, W.Keane 86  
Lancashire Senior Cup,  
Leigh Sports Village,  
22 December 2011

United finished the year in style with a one-sided success at Blackburn just three days before Christmas. Mame Biram Diouf had already headed a Rafael cross wide when opening the scoring against the club he represented on loan last term. Darron Gibson intelligently picked out the Senegalese striker's run and his header gave Jake Kean no chance.



Rafael stole possession and sped down the right to collect a Will Keane pass and crossed for Diouf to double

the lead from close range just past the half-hour mark.

Another fine example of the Reds' flowing football ended with Keane (left) having a goal rightly ruled out for offside after Kean denied Federico Macheda. However, the third did arrive in the final stages. Keane hooked a Davide Petrucci pass into the path of substitute Jesse Lingard, who took a couple of touches before finishing with aplomb off the underside of the crossbar.

With four minutes left, Keane deservedly got on the scoresheet himself when controlling a Paul Pogba through ball, beating a couple

## Reserves fixtures and results 2011/12

|                                               |                          |     |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----|
| Mon 15 Aug                                    | Arsenal (A)              | 1-2 |
| Thu 25 Aug                                    | Swansea City (H)         | 6-0 |
| Thu 8 Sep                                     | Bury (H) MSC             | 2-0 |
| Mon 12 Sep                                    | Fulham (H)               | 2-1 |
| Thu 15 Sep                                    | Rochdale (A) MSC         | 2-1 |
| Tue 27 Sep                                    | Norwich City (A)         | 4-2 |
| Thu 13 Oct                                    | Bolton Wanderers (A) MSC | 1-0 |
| Thu 20 Oct                                    | Blackburn Rovers (H)     | 0-0 |
| Sat 29 Oct                                    | Altrincham (A) Friendly  | 2-2 |
| Thu 3 Nov                                     | Everton (H)              | 2-0 |
| Thu 17 Nov                                    | Wigan Athletic (H)       | 4-1 |
| Tue 22 Nov                                    | Bolton Wanderers (A)     | 2-1 |
| Thu 8 Dec                                     | Sunderland (A)           | 3-6 |
| Thu 15 Dec                                    | Liverpool (H)            | 4-0 |
| Thu 22 Dec                                    | Blackburn Rovers (A)     | 4-0 |
| Fri 13 Jan                                    | Stockport County (H) MSC |     |
| Mon 16 Jan                                    | Liverpool (A)            |     |
| Thu 26 Jan                                    | Newcastle United (H)     |     |
| Wed 1 Feb                                     | Oldham Athletic (A)      |     |
| Mon 6 Feb                                     | Chelsea (A) 2.05pm       |     |
| Thu 9 Feb                                     | Manchester City (H)      |     |
| Thu 16 Feb                                    | Bolton Wanderers (H)     |     |
| Tue 21 Feb                                    | Wigan Athletic (A) 2pm   |     |
| Thu 1 Mar                                     | Sunderland (H)           |     |
| Tue 6 Mar                                     | West Bromwich Albion (A) |     |
| Mon 12 Mar                                    | Blackburn Rovers (A)     |     |
| Thu 22 Mar                                    | Aston Villa (H)          |     |
| Mon 26 Mar                                    | Everton (A)              |     |
| Thu 12 Apr                                    | Wolves (H)               |     |
| Tue 17 Apr                                    | Newcastle United (A)     |     |
| Week commencing 14 May – Play-off             |                          |     |
| All games will kick off at 7pm unless stated. |                          |     |
| Fixtures are subject to change.               |                          |     |

## Next up...

**Liverpool (A) 16.1.12**  
**Exacta Stadium, Chester, 7pm**  
The Merseysiders will want to avenge last month's 4-0 defeat in this game, which has a rearranged venue and kick-off time.  
**Watch live on MUTV and check out ManUtd.com for a full report.**

of defenders and lashing a low shot past Blackburn's Kean for the fourth.

**United:** Amos; Rafael, M.Keane, Fryers (Fornasier 75), Vermijl; Cole, Gibson, Pogba; Diouf (Petrucci 50), W.Keane, Macheda (Lingard 75)  
**Subs not used:** Jacob, Thorpe



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# THE UNITED FAMILY



**This is the section that is dedicated to you, the fans.**

Here, you can read interviews, tackle our half-time teasers and find out more fan news. And we want your contributions too – send us your photos\*, birthday messages, Red tales, branch stories and tributes to [unitedfamily@manutd.co.uk](mailto:unitedfamily@manutd.co.uk)

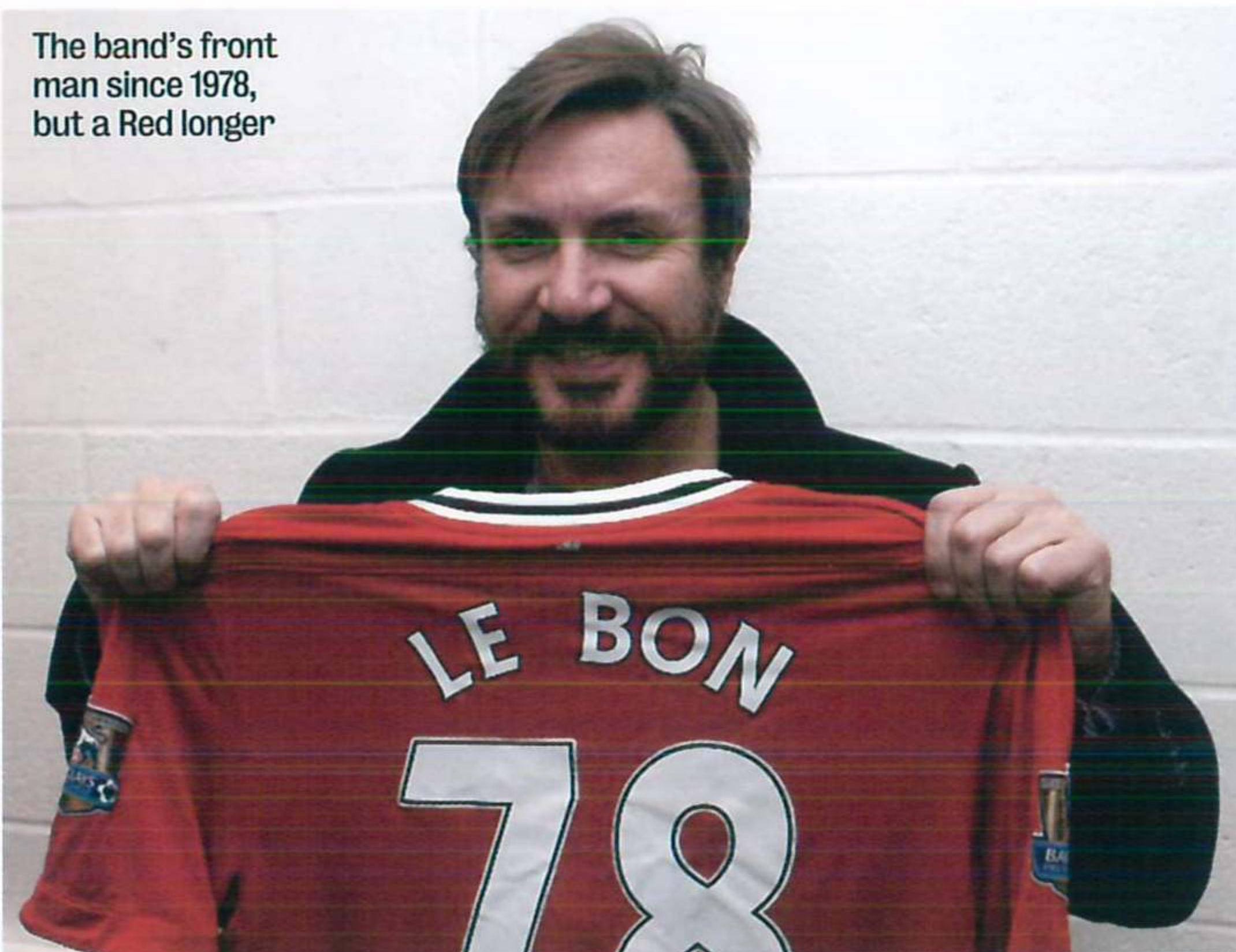
Send us your photos from games to [matchpics@manutd.co.uk](mailto:matchpics@manutd.co.uk)

\*high-resolution pics, please



United fan **Kelvin Ho** was over the moon when he got the chance to meet his Reds hero, Wayne Rooney.

The band's front man since 1978, but a Red longer



## Simon Le Bon

### Q&A

**The Duran Duran lead singer and lifelong United fan on his hopes for the rest of the season, and on being late for a meeting with the boss...**

**What's your earliest United memory?**

It was back in 1968 and I was at home with my dad. He shouted to me to "Come and watch this!" It was the

European Cup final between United and Benfica. I just remember seeing Georgie Best go round the goalkeeper [for United's second goal], and from then on United were my team for life.

**What's the best thing about being a Red?**

There are a few things. I've made some great friends through football and I absolutely love to follow a team with such great history and tradition. I love the colour red too!

**What's your favourite Old Trafford moment?**

One of my first matches will always stand out. It was New Year's Day 1977 against Aston Villa. I was stood in the Stretford End and we got a penalty. As we were waiting for it to be taken, this guy lifted me above the whole crowd and started shouting and singing. We scored the penalty and won, but that moment was an amazing one for me.

**If you could swap places with a current player for a day, who would it be and why?**

[Pauses to think] I used to be a goalkeeper so I'd probably say one of the keepers. I'm a big fan of David De Gea – he's a very talented player. I'd like to see how I'd go stopping some shots in goal, so I'll say him.

**Alternatively, if you could invite one of the players to be in the band for a day, who'd it be?**

Definitely Ryan Giggs. He's a great guy and I hear he's a big music fan, so he'd fit right in.



**You met the boss and some players a few years ago...**

Myself and John [Taylor] were invited to Carrington, and Sir Alex Ferguson's first words when we arrived were: "You're late" – which we were... very! [Laughs] We watched the team train, and had a good chat with the manager and also Roy Keane, who had been to our show the night before. John said to Roy, "I bet it was your wife's idea to come." Roy said, "No, it was me!"



**So how do you think the rest of the season will pan out?**

I feel very relaxed about it... we're in with a great chance of another title. The derby defeat in the league and the Champions League exit were big blows, but both acted as a bit of a wake-up call and there's a real chance of us having a great rest of the season. We have a fantastic squad, we just need everything to come together... I have faith it will.

Check out Duran Duran's official website: [www.duranduran.com](http://www.duranduran.com)

## FAN MESSAGES:

Happy 40th birthday to United fan **Bill Barnacle**. Lots of love from all your family and friends, especially Auntie Diane.

Congratulations to United fan **Olivia Flynn**, who can now drive herself to games after passing her test last week.

Happy 24th birthday to **Katie Chapman**. Love from all your colleagues at Old Trafford.





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## Half-time conundrums

- 1** Name the scorer  
Who scored United's goal in the 1-1 draw at Bolton on 22 February 2003?
- 2** Complete the line-up  
Can you identify the missing players from the team that lost 2-0 to Bolton in the 1958 FA Cup final?  
Gregg; Foulkes, Goodwin, Cope, Crowther, \*\*\*\*\*, Dawson, \*\*\*\*\*, Viollet, Webster, \*\*\*\*\*
- 3** The missing link  
0-4, 1-2, 1-2, 0-4, 0-1, ???, 0-5
- 4** Red anagrams  
Can you unravel the names of these United men who've all found the net against the Trotters down the years?  
Men conquer dog, John's only mimic, Snood barring
- 5** Final question?  
What was the score in United's last-ever game at Burnden Park?

Answers on page 54



Best wishes to **John Vincent**, here with son Paul. John saw his first match 60 years ago when United played Hull City in the FA Cup third round and has followed the Reds all over the world since.



Happy birthday to **Jack Beecroft**, pictured with girlfriend Leanne, who has travelled from his home in Tenerife to watch the Reds today.



Welcome to United fan **Steven Smith** (he's the one on the right) from Reading, who'll be cheering on the Reds against the Trotters today.

## Photo gallery



Happy 90th to South Stand season-ticket holder **Arthur Box** who's been watching United for the last 75 years.



Happy 11th birthday to **Daniel**, pictured at August's Community Shield game at Wembley with brother **Matthew**.



Happy 10th birthday to **Michelle**, here at Old Trafford today. Lots of love from Mam, Dad and Jessica.

## M16 in the area

21.12.11 Fulham 0 United 5, Craven Cottage  
04.01.12 Newcastle 3 United 0, Sports Direct Arena  
08.01.12 City 2 United 3, Etihad Stadium



From London to the north-east, then a game on our doorstep – travelling Reds have certainly been near and far over the past few weeks. United's sizeable support had plenty to cheer at Craven Cottage as the Reds crashed in five goals. And they were in fine voice – as noted by the boss (see p4) – even while the lads were going down 3-0 at Newcastle. The noisiest and most enjoyable of recent away trips was the shortest of all, however, with 5,700 Reds fans outsing our "noisy neighbours". And while United fans like to come up with our own chants and songs, at the Etihad we couldn't resist mimicking City's 'Poznan' celebration, when Rooney headed in our third goal.



**Reds on the road**  
United's 2011/12 away following so far:

**7 1 4 4 7**

## FAN MESSAGES:

Happy second birthday to **Harrison Milner**. Love from dad Dan and all the family.

Happy 10th birthday to **Morgan** and all his friends from Lytham, cheering on the Reds today.

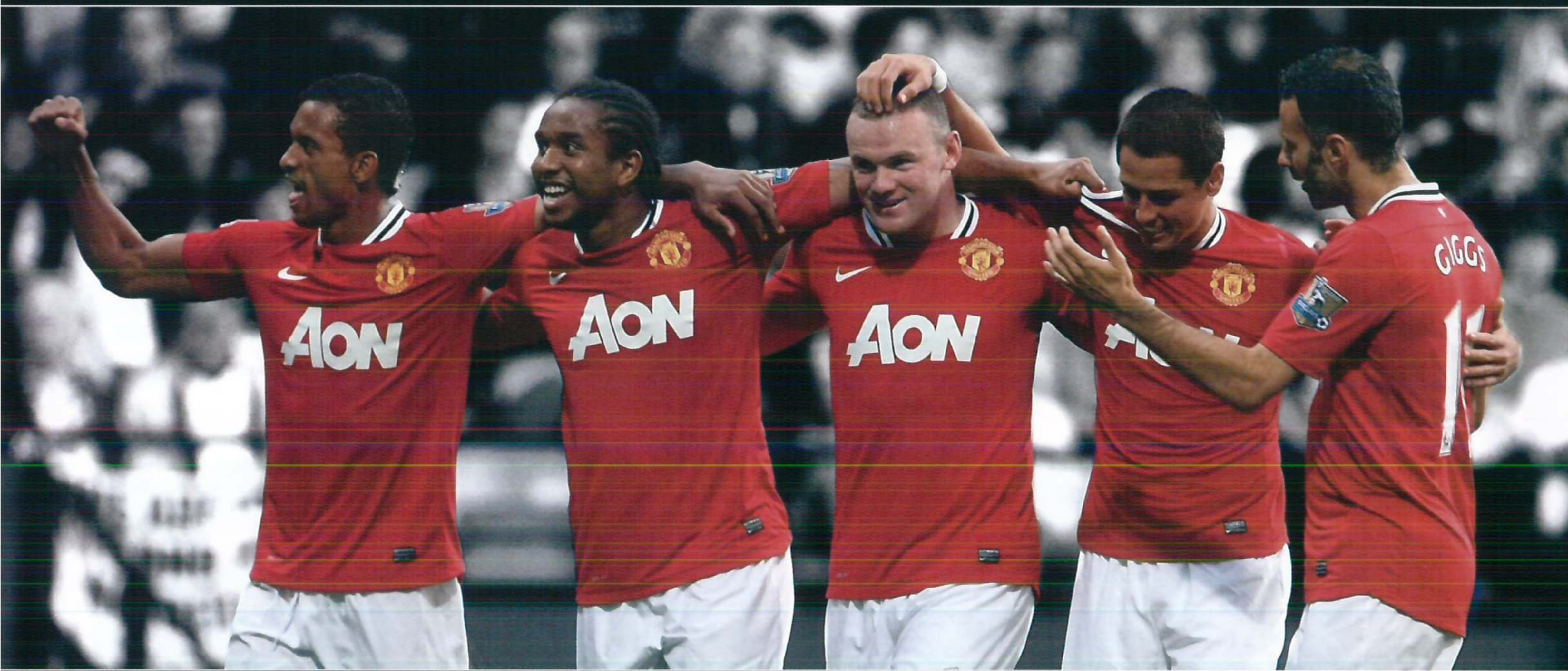
Happy 14th birthday to **Will Doust**, at OT for the first time with Becky, Peter, Sarah, Emma and Jamie.

Belated 68th birthday wishes to United fan **Desmond Manton**.





Thomas Cook  
**SPORT**  
official travel partner



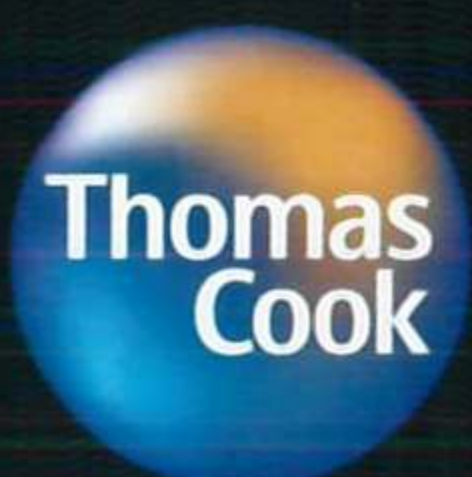
## Ajax v Manchester United



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# TALKING POINT

## How much of an impact can Paul Scholes have on United's season?

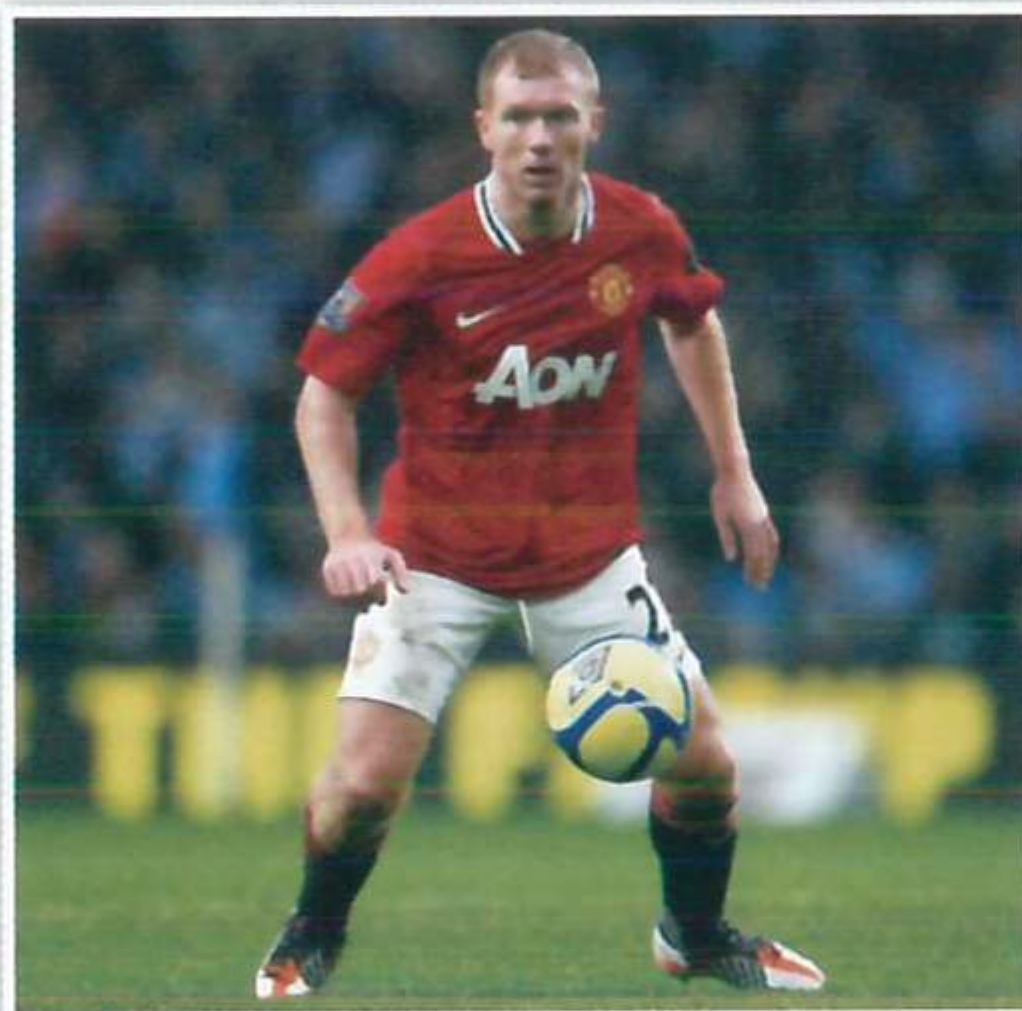
"Scholesy's second-half cameo against Manchester City proved that he still has the quality needed to compete at the highest level – all that was missing was match sharpness. Based on that performance, I believe he can be a positive influence on the campaign."

**Bobby Pozacco, Longsight**



"Paul Scholes' return isn't just going to benefit us on the pitch, but off it as well. In fact, I think that his biggest influence will be in the dressing room. There are quite a few young faces in our squad who don't have a lot of experience, so having Paul around is going to be a massive boost."

**Philip Lavelle, Urmston**



"Our season has been plagued by injuries, and recently players such as Phil Jones and Michael Carrick have been forced to play in almost every game. Scholes' comeback will ease the pressure in midfield and allow the boss to rotate. His return could be a turning point."

**Abdul Omar, Wigan**



"I was delighted when I first heard the news of his return. We have been crippled with injuries this season, especially in midfield, so the decision to bring Scholesy back could prove to be a masterstroke. He still has the talent and ability to succeed."

**Zubaul Mahmud, Longsight**



"Personally, I am happy to have Paul back in the squad, but he can only be viewed as a short-term solution to our midfield problems. He was tremendous against City and I hope that his experience can rub off on the younger players, especially the likes of Tom Cleverley and Paul Pogba."

**Babajide Awobiyi, London**



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## In memoriam

**Vernon Savage** passed away suddenly on 3 December,



aged 55. Born in Manchester, he moved to Torquay with his family when he was a boy, but that didn't stop him following United home, away and abroad for 40 years. He was the secretary of the Torbay branch for the last 25 years, and will be greatly missed by family, friends and colleagues.



Season-ticket holder **Keith Neal** sadly passed away on 7 December, aged 73. Keith had been a regular at OT since 1983, and travelled all over the world following the Reds. He is sadly missed by all who knew him, especially his friends from the Doncaster and District branch.

Lifelong United fan and North Stand season-

ticket holder **Janie Thomas** sadly passed away on 12 December, following a long battle with cancer. She came to her first match back in the 1950s with her dad, and she counted herself fortunate to meet her idol Bobby Charlton on a number of occasions. Janie is greatly missed by husband Ken, and all of her match-going friends, most notably Dan, Si, Will, Nick, Mandy, Paul, Mal, Mark and Jack.



### FAN MESSAGES:

Happy 40th birthday to **John Lewsey** who is here celebrating with wife Carrie.  
Happy 40th birthday to **Andy Dickens** has brought wife **Debs** to the game as a special treat for her 42nd birthday.  
Belated 50th birthday wishes to **Mark Coulson**. Love from Jill, Alex and Eleanor.  
Happy 32nd birthday to **Paul Wade** who is here with brother Stephen and nephew Tyrone.  
Happy 30th birthday to lifelong Red **Ryan De Jersey**.



# Junior reds



## Fred says...

“Welcome to Old Trafford for the first game of 2012. The Reds bounced back from the disappointing results against Blackburn and Newcastle with a good win over City in the Cup last weekend, and now we’re hoping the lads can build on that win with another victory!

It’s an exciting afternoon for the mascots at today’s game – the champions will be led out by nine-year-old Hasan, who is hoping to see a goal from favourite player



Another first timer is 13-year-old **Rachel**, who is visiting from Ireland.



United fan **Lewis**, 6, is hoping to see another United win this afternoon after seeing the Reds beat Chelsea earlier in the season.



Young Red **Samuel**, who is 15 months old, is attending his first United game today and is sat in the Sir Alex Ferguson Stand.



Chicharito. Our visitors will be accompanied by Joseph, 7, from Bolton. He’s hoping former Red Chris Eagles and Kevin Davies play well today.”



Happy ninth birthday to season-ticket holder **Max** who wants to see Rooney score.

## Photo gallery



Happy 15th birthday to **Louis**. Enjoy the match. Love Mum, Jason and Georgia.



## Birthdays

Jonny Haston 3 on 12 January  
Olly Jenkins 12 on 12 January  
Kelly Sampson 7 on 13 January  
Harry Goodwin 11 on 13 January  
Hope Falkin 15 on 13 January  
Steph Jones 14 on 14 January

## Answers to half-time quiz, p51

1. Ole Gunnar Solskjær; 2. Ian Greaves, Ernie Taylor, Bobby Charlton; 3. 0-4 – United’s wins at the Reebok Stadium; 4. Gordon McQueen, Jimmy Nicholson, Darren Gibson; 5. 6-0 to the Reds in 1996.

## Wordsearch

Can you find the names of six former Reds in the wordsearch below? You’re looking for Keane, Forlan, Neville, Crerand, Foulkes, Brown. The names may run forwards, backwards or diagonally.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | X | A | C | X | B | H | C | N |
| K | E | A | N | E | D | F | K | E |
| R | C | P | W | O | A | G | L | Z |
| F | O | U | L | K | E | S | G | N |
| B | R | O | W | N | F | X | B | T |
| F | O | R | L | A | N | X | L | Z |
| X | A | E | L | L | I | V | E | N |
| D | N | A | R | E | R | C | B | R |
| T | Z | Y | Y | D | V | L | A | R |



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# Reds raise spirits

Children get a boost from surprise hospital visits by United stars

**Y**oung patients at two local hospitals received big boosts when Manchester United players popped in for a surprise visit.

Patrice Evra, Wayne Rooney, Ji-sung Park and Tom Cleverley recently visited The Christie, while the rest of Sir Alex's squad embarked on a 13-ward tour of the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital.

Michael Owen was reunited with eight-year-old Miah, who he'd met on a previous visit in December 2009. At that time, Miah was recovering from severe facial injuries sustained during an unprovoked dog attack. After a lengthy chat with Michael, Miah agreed to take off her dressings and show off her smile for a picture – something she hadn't done before, not even for her parents or nurses.

"Michael Owen spent a lot of time talking to me and made me happy,"

Miah recalled. Owen recognised the young girl, who had returned to her old ward as a guest of the hospital this time around, and the pair picked up where they'd left off.

"He saw me and came over to talk," she said. "He told me that I looked beautiful and we were filmed for MUTV."

The hospital visits are events both players and patients always enjoy, even though they can be understandably distressing.

"I've been to dozens of hospital visits in my career but it's impossible to get used to seeing sick kids," said Michael Owen. "On this trip, I visited the burns unit, the terminally ill ward and the high-dependency ward. I had a lump in my throat most of the time.

"The surgeons and nurses do an unbelievable job, though. Their work is appreciated by so many people."

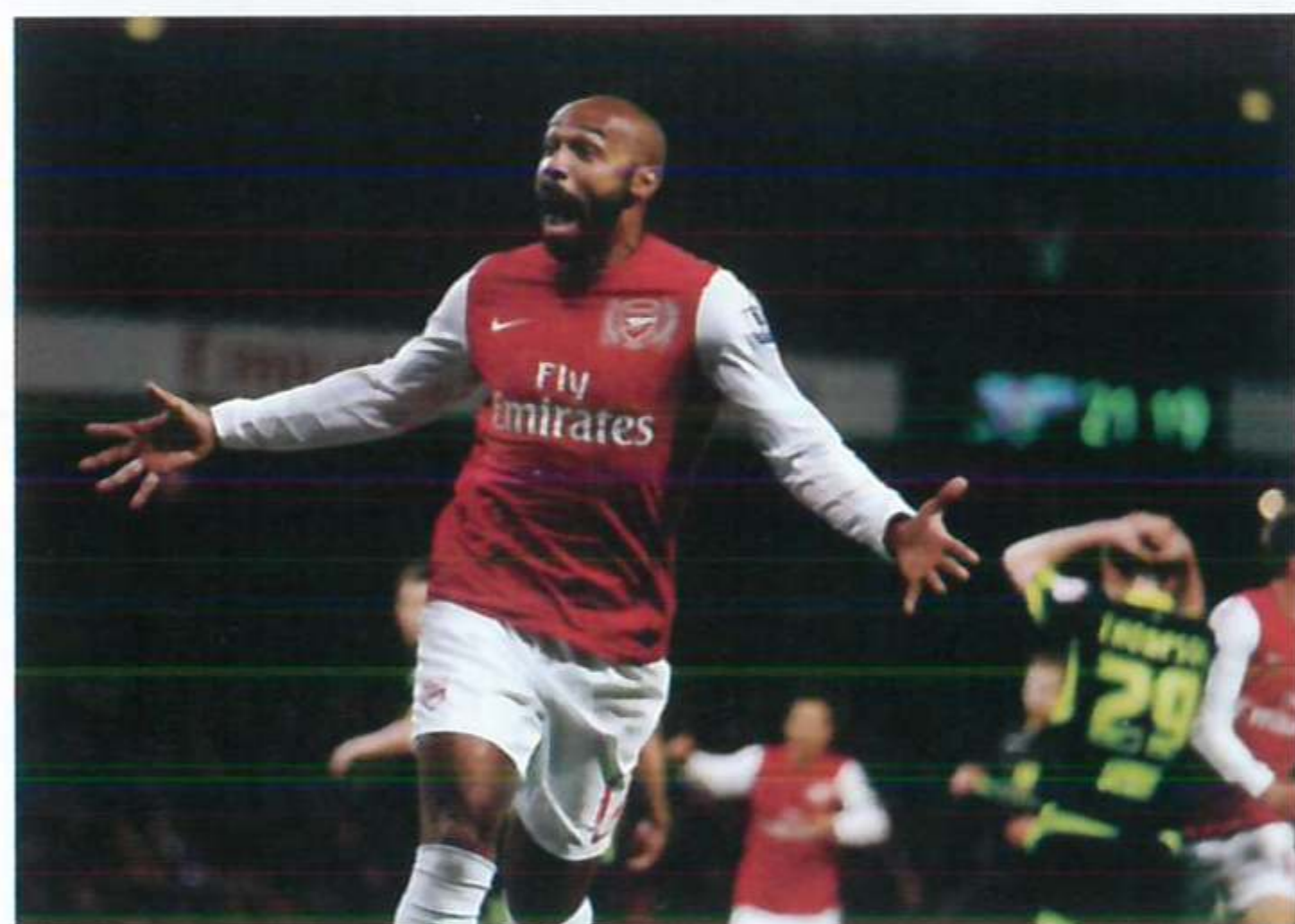
Miah and her sister Nicole met Michael Owen





# UNITED TICKETS

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## Arsenal v Manchester United

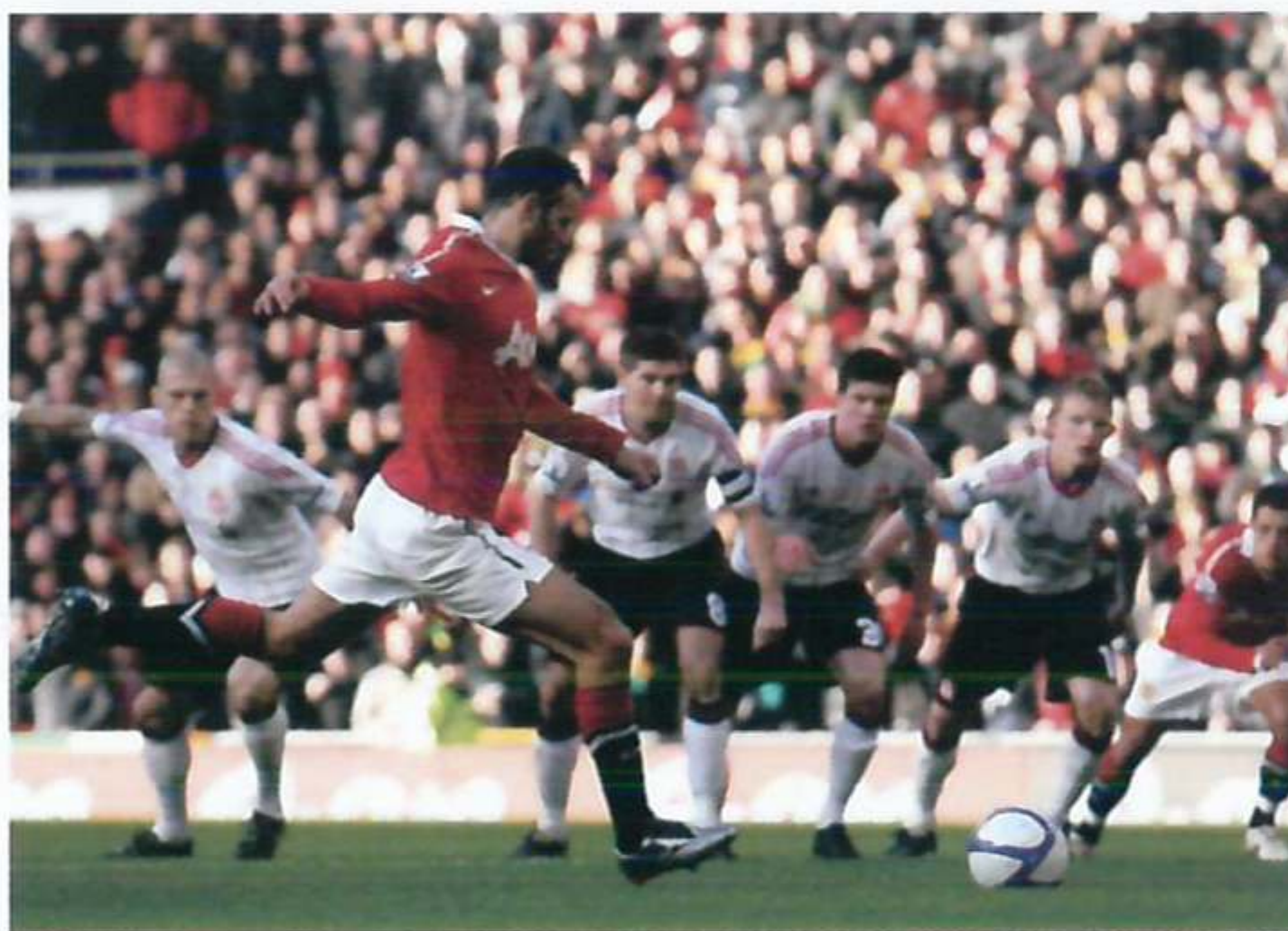
Barclays Premier League, Emirates Stadium  
Sunday 22 January, kick-off 4pm

**RVP MVP** A good run without injury for Robin van Persie has transformed the Gunners since their shattering 8-2 defeat at Old Trafford.

**Loan deals** Like United, Arsenal have struggled with injuries in defence and Arsène Wenger says he'll dip into the market this month.

**We meet again...** Will long-time (and in-form!) adversary Thierry Henry face up against the Reds once more at the Emirates?

**Ticket latest** All tickets have been sold.



## Liverpool v Manchester United

The FA Cup fourth round, Anfield,  
Saturday 28 January, kick-off 12.45pm

**Gotta beat the best** The Fates have been in mischievous form when it comes to the Cup draw for 2012. If United win a 12th FA Cup this season, we'll certainly have done it the hard way.

**Cup pedigree** Our Cup record against Liverpool is excellent: we've won nine and lost just three.

**Ticket latest** Executive Members and qualifying Season Ticket holders can apply now at [ManUtd.com/tickets](http://ManUtd.com/tickets) or by calling 0161 868 8000. Deadline for applications is 8am Wed 18 Jan.



## Manchester United v Stoke City

Barclays Premier League, Old Trafford  
Tuesday 31 January, kick-off 8pm

**Comfort zone** The Potters no longer look like a side punching above their weight. They have plenty of quality to complement their physicality.

**Turning the tide?** September's draw at the Britannia was the first time Stoke had taken a point off United in the Premier League.

**Check passports** Stoke, United and City are England's three teams left in the Europa League.

**Ticket latest** Visit [ManUtd.com/tickets](http://ManUtd.com/tickets) or call 0161 868 8000 for information on tickets.



## Manchester United v Liverpool

Barclays Premier League, Old Trafford  
Saturday 11 February, kick-off 12.45pm

**Berba's joy** A hat-trick in this fixture was the high point of 2010/11 top scorer Berbatov's season.

**Home comfort** With one ugly exception, United's recent home record against Liverpool is excellent. We've won seven of the last eight match-ups at OT.

**Ticket latest** Official Members have until 8am Fri 20 Jan to apply for tickets. Visit [ManUtd.com/tickets](http://ManUtd.com/tickets) or call 0161 868 8000. Not yet a Member? Join today with 10% off and apply for your ticket to see this unmissable game by calling 0161 868 8000.



## Ajax v Manchester United

UEFA Europa League round of 32, Amsterdam  
Arena, Thursday 16 February, kick-off 6pm

**Did you know?** Ajax's distinctive kit came about because of a clash with Sparta Rotterdam, who were already in the top flight when Ajax joined in 1911. Both wore red and white stripes with black shorts, so the Amsterdam side were forced to change and picked the famous broad red stripe on white.

**Ticket latest** Executive Members, Season Ticket holders and Official Members have until 8am Fri 20 Jan to apply. Visit [ManUtd.com/tickets](http://ManUtd.com/tickets) or call 0161 868 8000.



## Manchester United v Ajax

UEFA Europa League round of 32, Old Trafford  
Thursday 23 February, kick-off 8.05pm

**Who's in charge?** Frank de Boer helms the side, with fellow Dutch legend Dennis Bergkamp as his assistant. Both started their playing careers at Ajax and between them the two men boast 191 caps for their country. That's some pedigree...

**Ticket latest** Official Members can buy now at [ManUtd.com/tickets](http://ManUtd.com/tickets) or by calling 0161 868 8000. Not yet a Member? Join today with 10% off and secure your ticket to see this game by calling 0161 868 8000.



To find out about Matchday packages for home fixtures, please call 0161 868 8000



### Chelsea v Manchester United Barclays Premier League, Stamford Bridge Sunday 5 February, kick-off 4pm

**New faces?** This first fixture after the transfer window shuts will be a big test for any new men brought in by AVB.

**Title chasers?** Chelsea's boss said talk of a title bid was "fantasy" after home defeat to Aston Villa, but Frank Lampard insists the Blues are still "challenging for the top".

**Dan's the man** Daniel Sturridge tops Chelsea's league scoring charts with nine goals to date.

**Ticket latest** All tickets have been sold.



### Norwich City v Manchester United Barclays Premier League, Carrow Road Sunday 26 February, kick-off 1.30pm

**Canaries are singing** With a little-known squad, Norwich were many pundits' favourites to go straight back down, but here they sit, top of the promoted sides, happily in mid-table and enjoying every minute.

**Ticket latest** Executive Members and qualifying Season Ticket holders can apply from 8am Mon 30 Jan by visiting [ManUtd.com/tickets](http://ManUtd.com/tickets) or by calling 0161 868 8000. The deadline for applications is 8am Fri 3 Feb.

## STADIUM NEWS



## A footballing feast Rub shoulders with legends at Foundation lunch

They may not have had the chance to play together, but United legends Denis Law and Peter Schmeichel will be teaming up at Old Trafford next month for a fundraising lunch.

The pair will also be joined by a current first-team member at the event, funds from which will go to the Manchester United Foundation. The Europa Suite will play host to the lunch on Tuesday 28 February at 12noon, with TV presenter and lifelong Red Eamonn Holmes acting as compere for the day. Guests will be treated to a two-course lunch before the trio take to the stage for a question-and-answer session, during which they will give fans a first-hand account of the highs and lows of three glorious eras in the club's history.

"Old Trafford is a place where I made lifelong friends and some very special memories," said Law. "I was privileged to play with and against some of the best

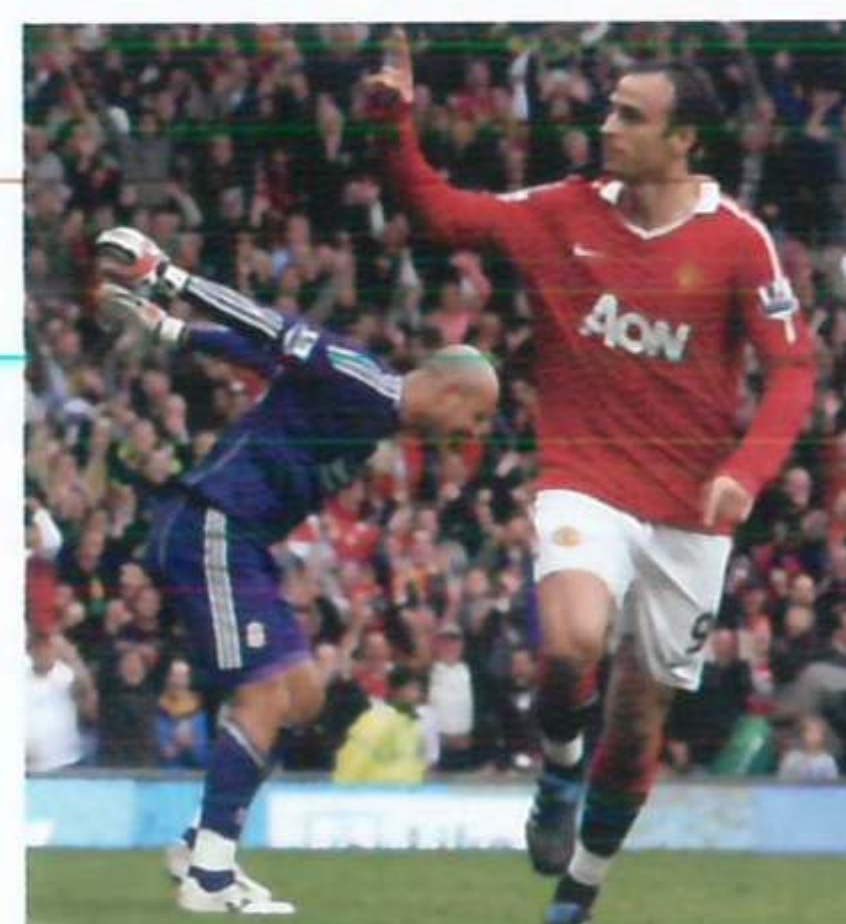
players in football history and I'm looking forward to sharing my recollections of those times and answering the fans' questions although I hope they don't give me too much of a grilling!"

Schmeichel is also looking forward to a return to OT and lending his support to the Foundation. "I thoroughly enjoyed my time at the club and it's great to be able to come back to help raise funds for the Foundation which does so much good work for underprivileged young people in the UK," added the Dane.

Tickets for the lunch are available now from £100 per person. Gold tables of 10 are available from £1,000. Platinum tables, which include a private drinks reception with the legends and a fantastic 'top-spot' table, are priced £1,500. To book, visit [www.mufoundation.org](http://www.mufoundation.org) or contact James Lester on 0161 868 8444 or via email: [james.lester@mufoundation.org](mailto:james.lester@mufoundation.org)

## More VIP packages made available for Liverpool

Due to popular demand, the club have released an exciting additional matchday VIP package for the Reds' mouthwatering clash with Liverpool next month. The club has teamed up with the Hilton Hotel in the city centre to offer fans a first-class 'Deansgate' hospitality package for the Barclays Premier League clash on Saturday 11 February. Your day will begin at 10.30am at the Hilton with a champagne reception. On



arrival at Old Trafford, via your transfer aboard an executive coach, you will take your seat for one of the games of the season. You will then be taken back to the Hilton after the game and treated to a three-course meal and a question and answer session with United legends. Availability is limited so don't delay. Call the Matchday VIP Sales team on 0161 868 8000 now to check availability.





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BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE 2011/12

|                     | P  | W  | D | L  | F  | A  | GD  | P  |
|---------------------|----|----|---|----|----|----|-----|----|
| 1 Manchester City   | 20 | 15 | 3 | 2  | 56 | 16 | +40 | 48 |
| 2 Manchester United | 20 | 14 | 3 | 3  | 49 | 20 | +29 | 45 |
| 3 Tottenham Hotspur | 20 | 14 | 3 | 3  | 38 | 20 | +18 | 45 |
| 4 Chelsea           | 20 | 11 | 4 | 5  | 39 | 25 | +14 | 37 |
| 5 Arsenal           | 20 | 11 | 3 | 6  | 36 | 28 | +8  | 36 |
| 6 Liverpool         | 20 | 9  | 7 | 4  | 24 | 18 | +6  | 34 |
| 7 Newcastle United  | 20 | 9  | 6 | 5  | 29 | 25 | +4  | 33 |
| 8 Stoke City        | 20 | 8  | 5 | 7  | 22 | 31 | -9  | 29 |
| 9 Norwich City      | 20 | 6  | 7 | 7  | 30 | 35 | -5  | 25 |
| 10 Sunderland       | 20 | 6  | 6 | 8  | 27 | 23 | +4  | 24 |
| 11 Everton          | 20 | 7  | 3 | 10 | 20 | 24 | -4  | 24 |
| 12 Swansea City     | 20 | 5  | 8 | 7  | 20 | 23 | -3  | 23 |
| 13 Aston Villa      | 20 | 5  | 8 | 7  | 22 | 26 | -4  | 23 |
| 14 Fulham           | 20 | 5  | 8 | 7  | 22 | 26 | -4  | 23 |
| 15 West Brom        | 20 | 6  | 4 | 10 | 19 | 28 | -9  | 22 |
| 16 Wolves           | 20 | 4  | 5 | 11 | 22 | 36 | -14 | 17 |
| 17 QPR              | 20 | 4  | 5 | 11 | 19 | 35 | -16 | 17 |
| 18 Bolton Wanderers | 20 | 5  | 1 | 14 | 25 | 43 | -18 | 16 |
| 19 Wigan Athletic   | 20 | 3  | 6 | 11 | 18 | 41 | -23 | 15 |
| 20 Blackburn Rovers | 20 | 3  | 5 | 12 | 29 | 43 | -14 | 14 |

Table and stats correct at time of press: 13.01.12

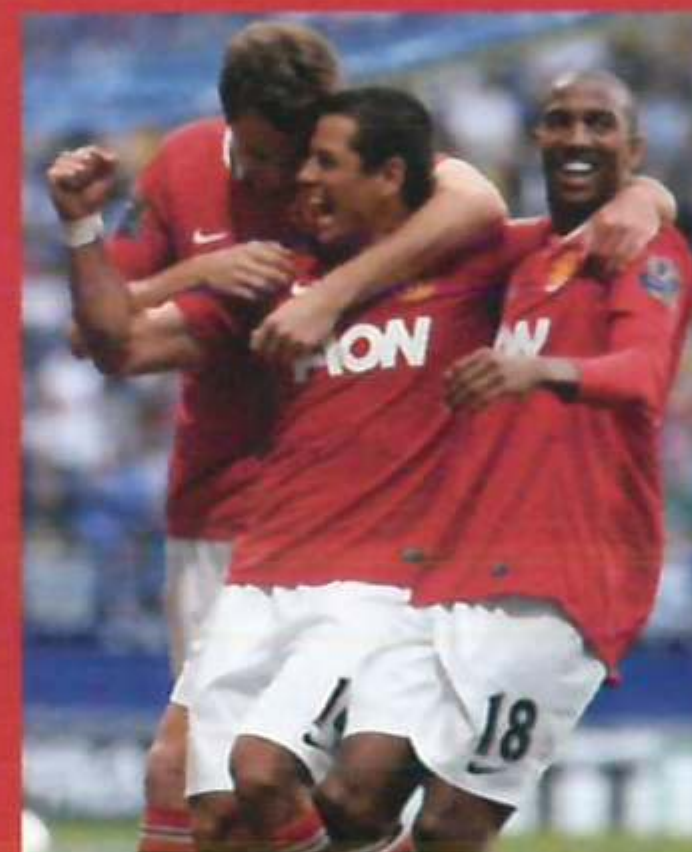
TOP 10 LEAGUE GOALSCORERS 2011/12

| Player            | Team             | Goals |
|-------------------|------------------|-------|
| Robin van Persie  | Arsenal          | 17    |
| Demba Ba          | Newcastle United | 15    |
| Sergio Aguero     | Manchester City  | 14    |
| Wayne Rooney      | United           | 13    |
| Ayegbeni Yakubu   | Blackburn Rovers | 12    |
| Edin Dzeko        | Manchester City  | 10    |
| Emmanuel Adebayor | Tottenham        | 9     |
| Daniel Sturridge  | Chelsea          | 9     |
| Mario Balotelli   | Manchester City  | 8     |
| Steven Fletcher   | Wolves           | 8     |
| Frank Lampard     | Chelsea          | 8     |



# Place your bets

## But first, read our tips...



### A) United to win to nil (10/11)

Three of United's last four fixtures against Bolton at Old Trafford have finished in clean sheet victories for Sir Alex's men. We reckon it could definitely happen again.

### B) United to score four or more goals (2/1)

The Reds won 5-0 at the Reebok earlier this season and have registered similar victories three times in the last month. Bolton defenders won't be relishing today's game.

## Head to head

Football supporters love proving the pundits wrong, so we're giving The Fans a chance to take on The Journos in our betting league. Each home league game, Betfair will provide both groups with a £10 charity bet, which can be placed on any available market. We'll keep a tally of the money raised and donate the funds to charity.



**Michael Cox, Zonal Marking**  
Bet: United to win both halves (5/6)  
Journos' winnings to date: £0

"United average three goals per game at Old Trafford in 2011/12, while Bolton have the joint-worst defence in the division."



**Danny de Brabander, Wirral**  
Bet: Paul Scholes to score (9/2)  
Fans' winnings to date: £67

"It's great to have Scholes, the best midfielder of his generation, back in action and it would be fitting for him to score on his OT return."

## BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES 2011/12

Read across for home games and down for away

|                      | Arsenal | Aston Villa | Blackburn Rovers | Bolton Wanderers | Chelsea | Everton | Fulham | Liverpool | Manchester City | UNITED | Newcastle United | Norwich City | Queens Park Rangers | Stoke City | Sunderland | Swansea City | Tottenham Hotspur | West Bromwich Albion | Wigan Athletic | Wolves |
|----------------------|---------|-------------|------------------|------------------|---------|---------|--------|-----------|-----------------|--------|------------------|--------------|---------------------|------------|------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------|--------|
| Arsenal              | =====   | 24/03       | 04/02            | 3-0              | 21/04   | 1-0     | 1-1    | 0-2       | 07/04           | 22/01  | 10/03            | 05/05        | 1-0                 | 3-1        | 2-1        | 1-0          | 26/02             | 3-0                  | 14/04          | 1-1    |
| Aston Villa          | 1-2     | =====       | 3-1              | 17/03            | 31/03   | 14/01   | 10/03  | 0-2       | 12/02           | 0-1    | 1-1              | 3-2          | 01/02               | 09/04      | 21/04      | 0-2          | 05/05             | 1-2                  | 2-0            | 0-0    |
| Blackburn Rovers     | 4-3     | 03/03       | =====            | 1-2              | 0-1     | 0-1     | 14/01  | 09/04     | 0-4             | 31/03  | 01/02            | 21/04        | 11/02               | 1-2        | 17/03      | 4-2          | 1-2               | 1-2                  | 05/05          | 1-2    |
| Bolton Wanderers     | 31/01   | 1-2         | 24/03            | =====            | 1-5     | 0-2     | 07/04  | 21/01     | 2-3             | 0-5    | 0-2              | 1-2          | 10/03               | 5-0        | 0-2        | 21/04        | 14/04             | 05/05                | 11/02          | 1-1    |
| Chelsea              | 3-5     | 1-3         | 13/05            | 25/02            | =====   | 3-1     | 1-1    | 1-2       | 2-1             | 05/02  | 14/04            | 3-1          | 28/04               | 10/03      | 14/01      | 4-1          | 24/03             | 2-1                  | 07/04          | 3-0    |
| Everton              | 17/03   | 2-2         | 21/01            | 1-2              | 11/02   | =====   | 28/04  | 0-2       | 01/02           | 0-1    | 13/05            | 1-1          | 0-1                 | 0-1        | 09/04      | 1-0          | 10/03             | 31/03                | 3-1            | 2-1    |
| Fulham               | 2-1     | 0-0         | 1-1              | 2-0              | 09/04   | 1-3     | =====  | 1-0       | 2-2             | 0-5    | 21/01            | 31/03        | 6-0                 | 11/02      | 05/05      | 17/03        | 1-3               | 01/02                | 21/04          | 03/03  |
| Liverpool            | 03/03   | 07/04       | 1-1              | 3-1              | 05/05   | 25/02   | 14/04  | =====     | 1-1             | 1-1    | 3-1              | 1-1          | 1-0                 | 14/01      | 1-1        | 0-0          | 06/02             | 21/04                | 24/03          | 2-1    |
| Manchester City      | 1-0     | 4-1         | 25/02            | 03/03            | 17/03   | 2-0     | 04/02  | 3-0       | =====           | 28/04  | 3-1              | 5-1          | 13/05               | 3-0        | 31/03      | 4-0          | 22/01             | 09/04                | 3-0            | 3-1    |
| UNITED               | 8-2     | 14/04       | 2-3              | 14/01            | 3-1     | 21/04   | 24/03  | 11/02     | 1-6             | =====  | 1-1              | 2-0          | 07/04               | 31/01      | 1-0        | 05/05        | 3-0               | 10/03                | 5-0            | 4-1    |
| Newcastle United     | 0-0     | 05/02       | 3-1              | 09/04            | 0-3     | 2-1     | 2-1    | 31/03     | 05/05           | 3-0    | =====            | 17/03        | 15/01               | 21/04      | 03/03      | 0-0          | 2-2               | 2-3                  | 1-0            | 25/02  |
| Norwich City         | 1-2     | 13/05       | 3-3              | 04/02            | 21/01   | 07/04   | 1-1    | 28/04     | 14/04           | 25/02  | 4-2              | =====        | 2-1                 | 1-1        | 2-1        | 3-1          | 0-2               | 0-1                  | 10/03          | 24/03  |
| Queens Park Rangers  | 31/03   | 1-1         | 1-1              | 0-4              | 1-0     | 03/03   | 25/02  | 17/03     | 2-3             | 0-2    | 0-0              | 1-2          | =====               | 05/05      | 2-3        | 09/04        | 21/04             | 1-1                  | 21/01          | 04/02  |
| Stoke City           | 28/04   | 0-0         | 3-1              | 13/05            | 0-0     | 14/04   | 2-0    | 1-0       | 24/03           | 1-1    | 1-3              | 03/03        | 2-3                 | =====      | 04/02      | 26/02        | 2-1               | 21/01                | 2-2            | 07/04  |
| Sunderland           | 11/02   | 2-2         | 2-1              | 28/04            | 1-2     | 1-1     | 0-0    | 10/03     | 1-0             | 13/05  | 0-1              | 31/01        | 24/03               | 4-0        | =====      | 21/01        | 07/04             | 2-2                  | 1-2            | 14/04  |
| Swansea City         | 15/01   | 0-0         | 14/04            | 3-1              | 31/01   | 24/03   | 2-0    | 13/05     | 10/03           | 0-1    | 07/04            | 11/02        | 1-1                 | 2-0        | 0-0        | =====        | 1-1               | 3-1                  | 0-0            | 28/04  |
| Tottenham Hotspur    | 2-1     | 2-0         | 28/04            | 3-0              | 1-1     | 2-0     | 13/05  | 4-0       | 1-5             | 03/03  | 11/02            | 09/04        | 3-1                 | 17/03      | 1-0        | 31/03        | =====             | 1-0                  | 31/01          | 14/01  |
| West Bromwich Albion | 13/05   | 28/04       | 07/04            | 2-1              | 03/03   | 0-1     | 0-0    | 0-2       | 0-0             | 1-2    | 24/03            | 14/01        | 14/04               | 0-1        | 25/02      | 04/02        | 1-3               | =====                | 1-2            | 2-0    |
| Wigan Athletic       | 0-4     | 25/02       | 3-3              | 1-3              | 1-1     | 04/02   | 0-2    | 0-0       | 16/01           | 09/04  | 28/04            | 1-1          | 2-0                 | 31/03      | 1-4        | 03/03        | 1-2               | 17/03                | =====          | 13/05  |
| Wolves               | 09/04   | 21/01       | 10/03            | 31/03            | 1-2     | 05/05   | 2-0    | 31/01     | 21/04           | 17/03  | 1-2              | 2-2          | 0-3                 | 1-2        | 2-1        | 2-2          | 0-2               | 12/02                | 3-1            | =====  |



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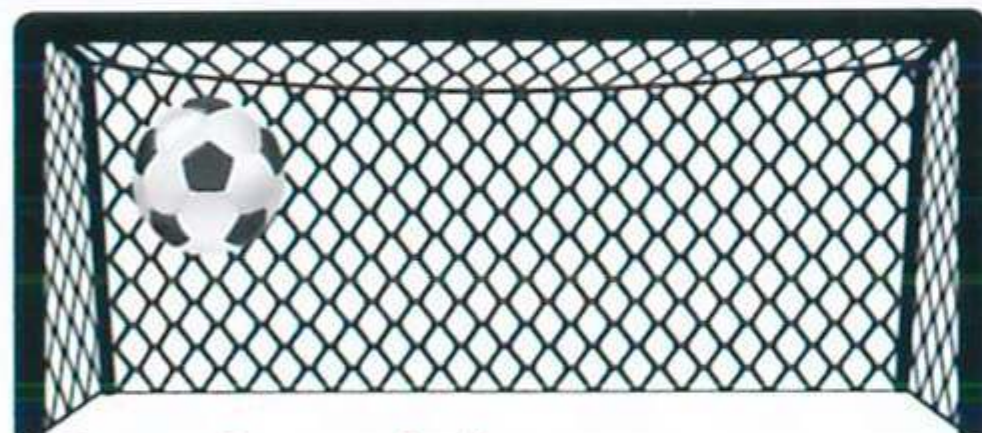
# Focus on...

## Dimitar Berbatov



The Bulgarian striker scooped the ManUtd.com Player of the Month award for his performances in December, a month in which Berba netted six times in just 193 minutes on the pitch.

# 66



Dimitar Berbatov has found the net, on average, every 66 minutes during Barclays Premier League action this season (the best strike rate of any forward at United).

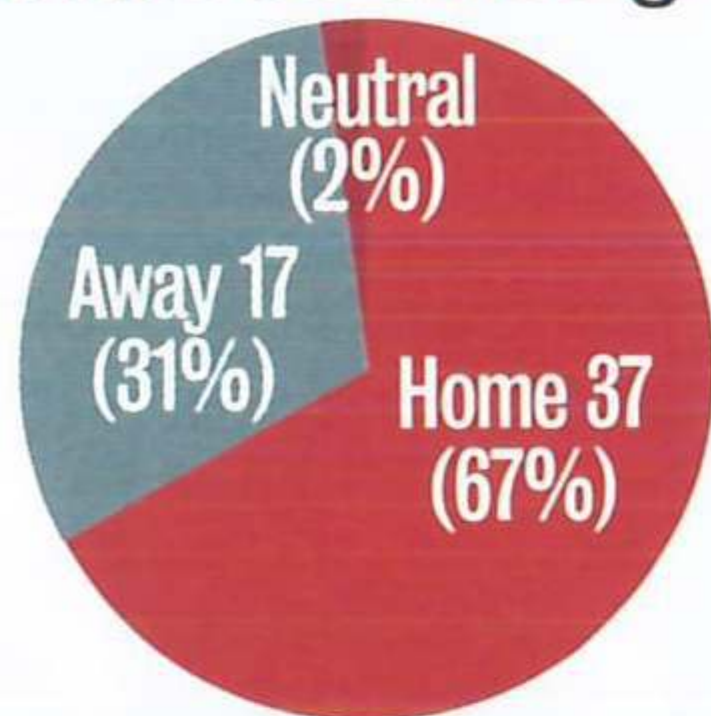
# 7

The Reds' no.9 has won every tackle he's attempted in the league this season.



61% Berbatov has won eight of the 13 aerial duels (both in attacking and defensive areas) he's contested in the league.

Berba's 55 United goals



# 78%

Berba's successfully completed 78% of the passes he's attempted in 2011/12.



## Statistical snippets

# 97%

United have lost just one of the 11 FA Cup ties against Liverpool since World War II, winning eight and drawing two.

On his return to first-team football, Paul Scholes completed 71 of the 73 passes he attempted against Manchester City, in just over 30 minutes of action.

# 250



Against Manchester City, Patrice Evra made his 250th start (in all competitions) for the Reds, while Rio Ferdinand started his 250th league game, against Newcastle.

### Appearances and goals 2011/12

| Player            | League |    | FA Cup |   | Carling Cup |   | Europe |   | Others |   | Total |    |
|-------------------|--------|----|--------|---|-------------|---|--------|---|--------|---|-------|----|
|                   | A      | G  | A      | G | A           | G | A      | G | A      | G | A     | G  |
| Ben Amos          | 0      | 0  | 0      | 0 | 3           | 0 | 0      | 0 | 0      | 0 | 3     | 0  |
| Anderson          | 8(2)   | 2  | 0(1)   | 0 | 0           | 0 | 3      | 0 | 1      | 0 | 12(3) | 2  |
| Dimitar Berbatov  | 4(5)   | 6  | 0      | 0 | 3           | 1 | 2(1)   | 1 | 0(1)   | 0 | 9(7)  | 8  |
| Michael Carrick   | 9(3)   | 1  | 1      | 0 | 1           | 0 | 4      | 0 | 1      | 0 | 16(3) | 1  |
| Tom Cleverley     | 5      | 0  | 0      | 0 | 1           | 0 | 0      | 0 | 0(1)   | 0 | 6(1)  | 0  |
| Larnell Cole      | 0      | 0  | 0      | 0 | 0(1)        | 0 | 0      | 0 | 0      | 0 | 0(1)  | 0  |
| David De Gea      | 14     | 0  | 0      | 0 | 0           | 0 | 4      | 0 | 1      | 0 | 19    | 0  |
| Mame Biram Diouf  | 0      | 0  | 0      | 0 | 3           | 0 | 0      | 0 | 0      | 0 | 3     | 0  |
| Jonny Evans       | 12(1)  | 0  | 0      | 0 | 1           | 0 | 2(2)   | 0 | 0(1)   | 0 | 15(4) | 0  |
| Patrice Evra      | 19     | 0  | 1      | 0 | 0           | 0 | 5      | 0 | 1      | 0 | 26    | 0  |
| Fabio             | 2(2)   | 0  | 0      | 0 | 3           | 0 | 5      | 0 | 0      | 0 | 10(2) | 0  |
| Rio Ferdinand     | 12(1)  | 0  | 1      | 0 | 0           | 0 | 4      | 0 | 1      | 0 | 18(1) | 0  |
| Darren Fletcher   | 7(1)   | 1  | 0      | 0 | 0           | 0 | 2      | 1 | 0      | 0 | 9(1)  | 2  |
| Ezekiel Fryers    | 0(2)   | 0  | 0      | 0 | 2(1)        | 0 | 0(1)   | 0 | 0      | 0 | 2(4)  | 0  |
| Darron Gibson     | 1      | 0  | 0      | 0 | 1           | 0 | 0      | 0 | 0      | 0 | 2     | 0  |
| Ryan Giggs        | 6(7)   | 1  | 1      | 0 | 1           | 1 | 3      | 1 | 0      | 0 | 11(7) | 3  |
| Javier Hernandez  | 11(6)  | 6  | 0      | 0 | 0           | 0 | 1(3)   | 0 | 0      | 0 | 12(9) | 6  |
| Phil Jones        | 16(2)  | 1  | 1      | 0 | 1           | 0 | 4(2)   | 1 | 0(1)   | 0 | 22(5) | 2  |
| Michael Keane     | 0      | 0  | 0      | 0 | 0(1)        | 0 | 0      | 0 | 0      | 0 | 0(1)  | 0  |
| William Keane     | 0(1)   | 0  | 0      | 0 | 0           | 0 | 0      | 0 | 0      | 0 | 0(1)  | 0  |
| Anders Lindegaard | 6      | 0  | 1      | 0 | 0           | 0 | 2      | 0 | 0      | 0 | 9     | 0  |
| Federico Macheda  | 0(3)   | 0  | 0      | 0 | 2           | 1 | 0(1)   | 0 | 0      | 0 | 2(4)  | 1  |
| Ravel Morrison    | 0      | 0  | 0      | 0 | 0(2)        | 0 | 0      | 0 | 0      | 0 | 0(2)  | 0  |
| Nani              | 18(2)  | 6  | 1      | 0 | 0           | 0 | 4(2)   | 0 | 1      | 2 | 24(4) | 8  |
| Michael Owen      | 0(1)   | 0  | 0      | 0 | 2           | 3 | 1      | 0 | 0      | 0 | 3(1)  | 3  |
| Ji-sung Park      | 8(3)   | 2  | 0      | 0 | 3           | 0 | 2(2)   | 0 | 0      | 0 | 13(5) | 2  |
| Paul Pogba        | 0      | 0  | 0      | 0 | 0(3)        | 0 | 0      | 0 | 0      | 0 | 0(3)  | 0  |
| Rafael            | 1      | 0  | 0      | 0 | 1           | 0 | 0      | 0 | 0(1)   | 0 | 2(1)  | 0  |
| Wayne Rooney      | 16(2)  | 13 | 1      | 2 | 0           | 0 | 4      | 2 | 1      | 0 | 22(2) | 17 |
| Paul Scholes      | 0      | 0  | 0(1)   | 0 | 0           | 0 | 0      | 0 | 0      | 0 | 0(1)  | 0  |
| Chris Smalling    | 10(2)  | 1  | 1      | 0 | 1           | 0 | 3(1)   | 0 | 1      | 1 | 16(3) | 2  |
| Antonio Valencia  | 8(4)   | 1  | 1      | 0 | 3           | 1 | 5      | 1 | 0      | 0 | 17(4) | 3  |
| Nemanja Vidic     | 6      | 0  | 0      | 0 | 1           | 0 | 2      | 0 | 1      | 0 | 10    | 0  |
| Danny Welbeck     | 11(4)  | 4  | 1      | 1 | 0(1)        | 0 | 1(1)   | 2 | 1      | 0 | 14(6) | 7  |
| Ashley Young      | 10(3)  | 2  | 0      | 0 | 0           | 0 | 3      | 1 | 1      | 0 | 14(3) | 3  |

### United Player career stats

| Player            | League  |     | FA Cup |    | Carling Cup |    | Europe  |    | Others |   | Total    |     |
|-------------------|---------|-----|--------|----|-------------|----|---------|----|--------|---|----------|-----|
|                   | A       | G   | A      | G  | A           | G  | A       | G  | A      | G | A        | G   |
| Ben Amos          | 0       | 0   | 0      | 0  | 5           | 0  | 1       | 0  | 0      | 0 | 6        | 0   |
| Anderson          | 59(24)  | 4   | 8(5)   | 0  | 11(1)       | 0  | 25(7)   | 3  | 4      | 0 | 107(37)  | 7   |
| Bebe              | 0(2)    | 0   | 1      | 0  | 2(1)        | 1  | 0(1)    | 1  | 0      | 0 | 3(4)     | 2   |
| Dimitar Berbatov  | 81(24)  | 47  | 5(1)   | 1  | 5           | 1  | 14(11)  | 5  | 1(2)   | 1 | 106(38)  | 55  |
| Michael Carrick   | 131(31) | 13  | 17(1)  | 1  | 6(3)        | 1  | 53(3)   | 3  | 5(1)   | 0 | 212(39)  | 18  |
| Tom Cleverley     | 5       | 0   | 0      | 0  | 1           | 0  | 0       | 0  | 0(1)   | 0 | 6(1)     | 0   |
| Larnell Cole      | 0       | 0   | 0      | 0  | 0(1)        | 0  | 0       | 0  | 0      | 0 | 0(1)     | 0   |
| David De Gea      | 14      | 0   | 0      | 0  | 0           | 0  | 4       | 0  | 1      | 0 | 19       | 0   |
| Ritchie De Laet   | 3       | 0   | 0      | 0  | 1(2)        | 0  | 0       | 0  | 0      | 0 | 4(2)     | 0   |
| Mame Biram Diouf  | 0(5)    | 1   | 0      | 0  | 3(1)        | 0  | 0       | 0  | 0      | 0 | 3(6)     | 1   |
| Jonny Evans       | 57(4)   | 0   | 5(1)   | 0  | 14          | 0  | 14(5)   | 0  | 2(3)   | 0 | 92(13)   | 0   |
| Patrice Evra      | 180(8)  | 2   | 13(3)  | 0  | 5(3)        | 0  | 45(7)   | 1  | 7      | 0 | 250(21)  | 3   |
| Fabio             | 8(12)   | 1   | 6(1)   | 1  | 7           | 0  | 12(2)   | 0  | 1(1)   | 0 | 34(16)   | 2   |
| Rio Ferdinand     | 250(3)  | 6   | 26(1)  | 0  | 12(1)       | 0  | 77(1)   | 1  | 8      | 0 | 373(6)   | 7   |
| Darren Fletcher   | 164(33) | 17  | 14(9)  | 2  | 14(1)       | 0  | 47(12)  | 3  | 3(5)   | 1 | 242(60)  | 23  |
| Ezekiel Fryers    | 0(2)    | 0   | 0      | 0  | 2(1)        | 0  | 0(1)    | 0  | 0      | 0 | 2(4)     | 0   |
| Darron Gibson     | 14(17)  | 3   | 6(1)   | 2  | 10(3)       | 3  | 7(2)    | 2  | 0      | 0 | 37(23)   | 10  |
| Ryan Giggs        | 529(97) | 111 | 59(10) | 11 | 32(6)       | 10 | 123(20) | 29 | 15(3)  | 1 | 758(136) | 162 |
| Javier Hernandez  | 26(18)  | 19  | 4(1)   | 1  | 2(1)        | 1  | 7(6)    | 4  | 0(1)   | 1 | 39(27)   | 26  |
| Phil Jones        | 16(2)   | 1   | 1      | 0  | 1           | 0  | 4(2)    | 1  | 0(1)   | 0 | 22(5)    | 2   |
| Michael Keane     | 0       | 0   | 0      | 0  | 0(1)        | 0  | 0       | 0  | 0      | 0 | 0(1)     | 0   |
| William Keane     | 0(1)    | 0   | 0      | 0  | 0           | 0  | 0       | 0  | 0      | 0 | 0(1)     | 0   |
| Joshua King       | 0       | 0   | 0      | 0  | 0(1)        | 0  | 0       | 0  | 0      | 0 | 0(1)     | 0   |
| Tomasz Kuszczak   | 30(2)   | 0   | 7(1)   | 0  | 10          | 0  | 9(2)    | 0  | 0      | 0 | 56(5)    | 0   |
| Anders Lindegaard | 6       | 0   | 3      | 0  | 0           | 0  | 2       | 0  | 0      | 0 | 11       | 0   |
| Federico Macheda  | 5(14)   | 4   | 1      | 0  | 6(2)        | 1  | 3(2)    | 0  | 0      | 0 | 15(18)   | 5   |
| Ravel Morrison    | 0       | 0   | 0      | 0  | 0(3)        | 0  | 0       | 0  | 0      | 0 | 0(3)     | 0   |
| Nani              | 91(24)  | 23  | 7(1)   | 3  | 9           | 3  | 34(10)  | 3  | 5(2)   | 3 | 146(37)  | 35  |
| Michael Owen      | 6(25)   | 5   | 1(2)   | 1  | 6(1)        | 7  | 4(5)    | 4  | 1(1)   | 0 | 18(34)   | 17  |
| Ji-sung Park      | 91(37)  | 19  | 11(2)  | 1  | 11          | 3  | 24(15)  | 3  | 3(1)   | 0 | 140(55)  | 26  |
| Paul Pogba        | 0       | 0   | 0      | 0  | 0(3)        | 0  | 0       | 0  | 0      | 0 | 0(3)     | 0   |
| Rafael            | 36(5)   | 2   | 5      | 0  | 11(1)       | 0  | 11(4)   | 0  | 1(1)   | 0 | 64(11)   | 2   |
| Wayne Rooney      | 214(21) | 115 | 20(6)  | 14 | 7(4)        | 4  | 63(4)   | 27 | 6(1)   | 4 | 310(36)  | 164 |
| Paul Scholes      | 382(84) | 102 | 30(15) | 13 | 14(7)       | 9  | 112(18) | 26 | 14(1)  | 0 | 552(125) | 150 |
| Chris Smalling    | 21(7)   | 1   | 3(2)   | 0  | 4           | 1  | 10(3)   | 0  | 1(1)   | 1 | 39(13)   | 3   |
| Antonio Valencia  | 45(11)  | 7   | 2(2)   | 0  | 5(2)        | 1  | 16(5)   | 4  | 1(1)   | 1 | 69(21)   | 13  |
| Nemanja Vidic     | 164(3)  | 14  | 16     | 0  | 5(4)        | 0  | 44      | 2  | 7      | 2 | 236(7)   | 18  |
| Danny Welbeck     | 13(10)  | 5   | 5(2)   | 3  | 7(2)        | 2  | 3(1)    | 2  | 1      | 0 | 29(15)   | 12  |
| Ashley Young      | 10(3)   | 2   | 0      | 0  | 0           | 0  | 3       | 1  | 1      | 0 | 14(3)    | 3   |



Short corner
Your stats and fixtures guide



Guaranteed goals?

It's 42 games since Bolton Wanderers played out a 0-0 draw and 39 since the Reds were involved in a stalemate. That hints at plenty of goals today... as does the fact that in the last 55 fixtures between the two sides (in all competitions), only one has ended goalless.



Cup date confirmed

In case you missed the news earlier this week, a date for the mouthwatering FA Cup fourth-round tie against Liverpool has now been set. The match, the 17th FA Cup tie between the sides, will be played at Anfield on Saturday 28 January at 12.45pm. For those who don't get lucky in the ticket ballot (there's still time to apply - see p58), you can watch the game live on ITV1.



Super strike rate

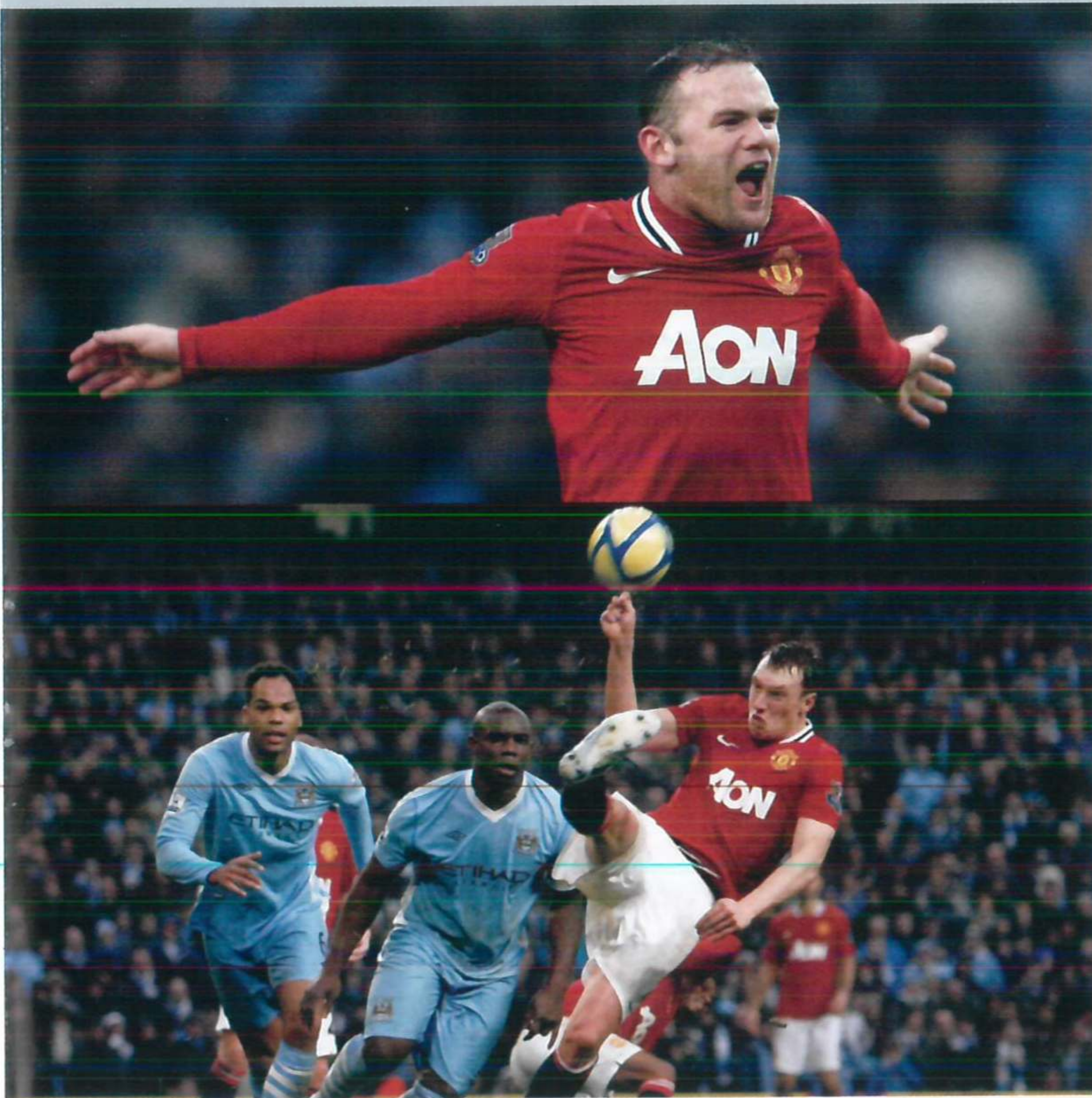
Trotters fans will be hoping Wayne Rooney doesn't feature today. That's because the Reds' forward has scored nine times in just 10 games (eight starts, two substitute appearances) against Bolton. One small consolation for today's visiting supporters: six of Wayne's nine goals have been netted at the Reebok Stadium, courtesy of two hat-tricks.

| 2011/12 Fixtures and Results |                                        |        | Unless stated all weekend matches kick-off 3pm, midweek 8pm, and CL/EL games 7.45pm |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|------------|-----------|--------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------------|--|--|
| August                       |                                        | Result | Starting line-up                                                                    |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Sun 7                      | Manchester City (NEUT) 2.30pm          | 3-2    | De Gea                                                                              | Smalling | Ferdinand  | Vidic®    | Evra   | Nani(2)  | Carrick   | Anderson  | Young     | Rooney    | Welbeck      |  |  |
| ● Sun 14                     | West Bromwich Albion (A) 4pm           | 2-1 x  | De Gea                                                                              | Smalling | Ferdinand  | Vidic®    | Fabio  | Nani     | Cleverley | Anderson  | Young     | Rooney    | Welbeck      |  |  |
| ● Mon 22                     | Tottenham Hotspur (H)                  | 3-0    | De Gea                                                                              | Smalling | Jones      | Evans     | Evra®  | Nani     | Cleverley | Anderson  | Young     | Rooney    | Welbeck      |  |  |
| ● Sun 28                     | Arsenal (H) 4pm                        | 8-2    | De Gea                                                                              | Smalling | Jones      | Evans     | Evra®  | Nani     | Cleverley | Anderson  | Young(2)  | Rooney(3) | Welbeck      |  |  |
| September                    |                                        |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Sat 10                     | Bolton Wanderers (A) 5.30pm            | 5-0    | De Gea                                                                              | Jones    | Ferdinand  | Evans     | Evra®  | Nani     | Cleverley | Anderson  | Young     | Rooney(3) | Hernandez(2) |  |  |
| ● Wed 14                     | Benfica (A) 7.45pm                     | 1-1    | Lindegaard                                                                          | Fabio    | Smalling   | Evans     | Evra®  | Valencia | Carrick   | Fletcher  | Park      | Giggs     | Rooney       |  |  |
| ● Sun 18                     | Chelsea (H) 4pm                        | 3-1    | De Gea                                                                              | Smalling | Jones      | Evans     | Evra®  | Nani     | Fletcher  | Anderson  | Young     | Rooney    | Hernandez    |  |  |
| ● Tue 20                     | Leeds United (A) 7.45pm                | 3-0    | Amos                                                                                | Valencia | Carrick    | Fryers    | Fabio  | Diouf    | Park      | Giggs®    | Macheda   | Berbatov  | Owen(2)      |  |  |
| ● Sat 24                     | Stoke City (A) 5.30pm                  | 1-1    | De Gea                                                                              | Valencia | Ferdinand  | Jones     | Evra®  | Nani     | Fletcher  | Anderson  | Young     | Berbatov  | Hernandez    |  |  |
| ● Tue 27                     | FC Basel (H) 7.45pm                    | 3-3    | De Gea                                                                              | Fabio    | Ferdinand  | Jones     | Evra®  | Valencia | Carrick   | Anderson  | Young     | Giggs     | Welbeck(2)   |  |  |
| October                      |                                        |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Sat 1                      | Norwich City (H)                       | 2-0    | Lindegaard                                                                          | Valencia | Jones      | Evans     | Evra®  | Park     | Fletcher  | Anderson  | Nani      | Rooney    | Hernandez    |  |  |
| ● Sat 15                     | Liverpool (A) 12.45pm                  | 1-1    | De Gea                                                                              | Smalling | Ferdinand  | Evans     | Evra®  | Young    | Jones     | Giggs     | Fletcher  | Park      | Welbeck      |  |  |
| ● Tue 18                     | Otelul Galati (A) 7.45pm               | 2-0    | Lindegaard                                                                          | Fabio    | Smalling   | Vidic®*   | Evra   | Valencia | Carrick   | Anderson  | Nani      | Rooney(2) | Hernandez    |  |  |
| ● Sun 23                     | Manchester City (H) 1.30pm             | 1-6    | De Gea                                                                              | Smalling | Ferdinand  | Evans*    | Evra®  | Nani     | Fletcher  | Anderson  | Young     | Rooney    | Welbeck      |  |  |
| ● Tue 25                     | Aldershot Town (A) 7.45pm              | 3-0    | Amos                                                                                | Fabio    | Vidic®     | Jones     | Fryers | Valencia | Park      | Cleverley | Diouf     | Berbatov  | Owen         |  |  |
| ● Sat 29                     | Everton (A) 12pm                       | 1-0    | De Gea                                                                              | Jones    | Vidic®     | Evans     | Evra   | Park     | Fletcher  | Rooney    | Cleverley | Welbeck   | Hernandez    |  |  |
| November                     |                                        |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Wed 2                      | Otelul Galati (H)                      | 2-0 x  | De Gea                                                                              | Jones    | Ferdinand® | Evans     | Fabio  | Valencia | Rooney    | Anderson  | Nani      | Berbatov  | Owen         |  |  |
| ● Sat 5                      | Sunderland (H)                         | 1-0 x  | Lindegaard                                                                          | Jones    | Vidic®     | Ferdinand | Evra   | Nani     | Fletcher  | Rooney    | Park      | Welbeck   | Hernandez    |  |  |
| ● Sat 19                     | Swansea City (A) 5.30pm                | 1-0    | De Gea                                                                              | Jones    | Vidic®     | Ferdinand | Evra   | Nani     | Carrick   | Giggs     | Park      | Rooney    | Hernandez    |  |  |
| ● Tue 22                     | Benfica (H) 7.45pm                     | 2-2    | De Gea                                                                              | Fabio    | Jones      | Ferdinand | Evra®  | Valencia | Carrick   | Fletcher  | Nani      | Young     | Berbatov     |  |  |
| ● Sat 26                     | Newcastle United (H)                   | 1-1    | De Gea                                                                              | Fabio    | Vidic®     | Ferdinand | Evra   | Nani     | Carrick   | Giggs     | Young     | Rooney    | Hernandez    |  |  |
| ● Wed 30                     | Crystal Palace (H) 7.45pm              | 1-2*   | Amos                                                                                | Rafael   | Smalling   | Evans®    | Fabio  | Valencia | Gibson    | Park      | Macheda   | Diouf     | Berbatov     |  |  |
| December                     |                                        |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Sat 3                      | Aston Villa (A)                        | 1-0    | Lindegaard                                                                          | Smalling | Vidic®     | Ferdinand | Evra   | Nani     | Carrick   | Jones     | Young     | Rooney    | Hernandez    |  |  |
| ● Wed 7                      | FC Basel (A) 7.45pm                    | 1-2    | De Gea                                                                              | Smalling | Vidic®     | Ferdinand | Evra   | Park     | Jones     | Giggs     | Young     | Nani      | Rooney       |  |  |
| ● Sat 10                     | Wolverhampton Wanderers (H)            | 4-1    | De Gea                                                                              | Smalling | Evans      | Ferdinand | Evra®  | Valencia | Jones     | Carrick   | Nani(2)   | Rooney(2) | Welbeck      |  |  |
| ● Sun 18                     | Queens Park Rangers (A) 12pm           | 2-0    | De Gea                                                                              | Smalling | Evans      | Ferdinand | Evra®  | Valencia | Jones     | Carrick   | Nani      | Rooney    | Welbeck      |  |  |
| ● Wed 21                     | Fulham (A)                             | 5-0    | Lindegaard                                                                          | Jones    | Smalling   | Evans     | Evra®  | Valencia | Carrick   | Giggs     | Nani      | Rooney    | Welbeck      |  |  |
| ● Mon 26                     | Wigan Athletic (H) 3pm                 | 5-0    | Lindegaard                                                                          | Valencia | Carrick    | Evans     | Evra®  | Nani     | Gibson    | Giggs     | Park      | Hernandez | Berbatov(3)  |  |  |
| ● Sat 31                     | Blackburn Rovers (H) 12.45pm           | 2-3    | De Gea                                                                              | Valencia | Carrick    | Jones     | Evra®  | Nani     | Park      | Rafael    | Welbeck   | Hernandez | Berbatov(2)  |  |  |
| January                      |                                        |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Wed 4                      | Newcastle United (A) 8pm               | 0-3    | Lindegaard                                                                          | Valencia | Ferdinand  | Jones     | Evra®  | Nani     | Carrick   | Giggs     | Park      | Rooney    | Berbatov     |  |  |
| ● Sun 8                      | Manchester City (A)                    | 3-2    | Lindegaard                                                                          | Jones    | Smalling   | Ferdinand | Evra®  | Valencia | Carrick   | Giggs     | Nani      | Welbeck   | Rooney(2)    |  |  |
| ● Sat 14                     | Bolton Wanderers (H)                   |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Sun 22                     | Arsenal (A) 4pm                        |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Sat 28                     | Liverpool (A) 12.45pm                  |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Tue 31                     | Stoke City (H)                         |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| February                     |                                        |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Sun 5                      | Chelsea (A) 4pm                        |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Sat 11                     | Liverpool (H) 12.45pm                  |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Thu 16                     | Ajax (A) 6pm                           |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Sat 18                     | FA Cup round 5                         |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Thu 23                     | Ajax (H) 8.05pm                        |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Sun 26                     | Norwich City (A) 1.30pm                |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| March                        |                                        |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Sat 3                      | Tottenham Hotspur (A)                  |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Thu 8                      | Europa League round of 16 (1)          |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Sat 10                     | West Bromwich Albion (H)               |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Thu 15                     | Europa League round of 16 (2)          |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Sat 17                     | Wolverhampton Wanderers (A) / FA Cup 6 |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Sat 24                     | Fulham (H)                             |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Thu 29                     | Europa League quarter-final (1)        |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Sat 31                     | Blackburn Rovers (A)                   |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| April                        |                                        |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Thu 5                      | Europa League quarter-final (2)        |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Sat 7                      | Queens Park Rangers (H)                |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Mon 9                      | Wigan Athletic (A) 3pm                 |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Sat 14                     | Aston Villa (H) / FA Cup semi-final    |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Thu 19                     | Europa League semi-final (1)           |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Sat 21                     | Everton (H)                            |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Thu 26                     | Europa League semi-final (2)           |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Sat 28                     | Manchester City (A)                    |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| May                          |                                        |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Sat 5                      | Swansea City (H) / FA Cup final 5.15pm |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Thu 9                      | Europa League final (NEUT) 7.45pm      |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |
| ● Sun 13                     | Sunderland (A)                         |        |                                                                                     |          |            |           |        |          |           |           |           |           |              |  |  |

Key ● Barclays Premier League ● UEFA Champions League ● Carling Cup ● FA Cup ● UEFA Europa League ● Community Shield Red name scorer ● Penalty x Own Goal \*after extra time



| Substitutes                                                                           | Referee           | Attendance |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------|
| Evans (15), Jones (5), Cleverley (16), Rafael (3), Berbatov (19) Lindegaard, Park     | Phil Dowd         | 77,169     |
| Evans (15), Berbatov (19), Jones (5), Lindegaard, Carrick, Giggs, Park                | Mike Jones        | 25,360     |
| Hernandez (19), Giggs (23), Park (18), Lindegaard, Fabio, Carrick, Berbatov           | Lee Probert       | 75,498     |
| Hernandez (19), Giggs (17), <b>Park</b> (8), Lindegaard, Ferdinand, Fabio, Berbatov   | Howard Webb       | 75,448     |
| Carrick (23), Giggs (18), Smalling (6), Lindegaard, Fabio, Park, Berbatov             | Andre Marriner    | 25,944     |
| Jones (20), Nani (25), Hernandez (24), De Gea, Anderson, Owen, Berbatov               | Damir Skomina     | 59,671     |
| Valencia (12), Carrick (8), Berbatov (14), Lindegaard, Fabio, Giggs, Park             | Phil Dowd         | 75,455     |
| Pogba (11), Welbeck (32), Cole (27), De Gea, Brown, Thorpe, M Keane                   | Mike Jones        | 31,031     |
| Owen (14), Giggs (18), Welbeck (9), Lindegaard, Fabio, Park, Macheda                  | Peter Walton      | 27,582     |
| Park (11), Nani (20), Berbatov (8), Lindegaard, Fletcher, Diouf, Owen                 | Paolo Tagliavento | 73,115     |
| Giggs (17), <b>Welbeck</b> (14), Ferdinand (8), De Gea, Carrick, Berbatov, Owen       | Stuart Attwell    | 75,514     |
| Nani (18), Rooney (13), <b>Hernandez</b> (4), Lindegaard, Anderson, Carrick, Valencia | Andre Marriner    | 45,065     |
| Evans (25), Jones (20), De Gea, Fletcher, Berbatov, Owen, Welbeck                     | Felix Brych       | 49,500     |
| Hernandez (8), Jones (17), Lindegaard, Fabio, Park, Valencia, Berbatov                | Mark Clattenburg  | 75,487     |
| Pogba (23), M Keane (51), Morrison (32), De Gea, Cole, Vermijl                        | Peter Walton      | 7,044      |
| Nani (23), Berbatov (14), Valencia (19), Lindegaard, Ferdinand, Fabio, Owen           | Mark Halsey       | 35,494     |
| Hernandez (7), Park (8), Fryers (6), Lindegaard, Evra, Pogba, Welbeck                 | Marijo Strahonja  | 74,847     |
| Berbatov (14), Carrick (13), Fabio (24), De Gea, Evans, Valencia, Berbatov, Diouf     | Lee Mason         | 75,570     |
| Fabio (3), Fletcher (11), Valencia (14), Lindegaard, Evans, Young, Berbatov           | Mike Dean         | 20,295     |
| Smalling (20), Hernandez (25), Lindegaard, Gibson, Giggs, Park, Hernandez             | Cuneyt Cakir      | 74,853     |
| Smalling (22), Macheda (3), Lindegaard, Evans, Gibson, Park, Valencia                 | Mike Jones        | 75,594     |
| Fryers (20), Morrison (9), Pogba (21), Lindegaard, M Keane, Cole, Lingard             | Chris Foy         | 52,624     |
| Valencia (14), Giggs (5), Welbeck (18), De Gea, Evans, Fletcher, Park                 | Lee Probert       | 40,053     |
| Evans (15), Welbeck (18), Macheda (13), Lindegaard, Fletcher, Gibson, Valencia        | Bjorn Kuipers     | 36,894     |
| Fryers (3), Macheda (19), Young (17), Lindegaard, Gibson, Giggs, Park                 | Michael Oliver    | 75,627     |
| Hernandez (19), Giggs (10), Young (17), Lindegaard, Fryers, Park, Berbatov            | Howard Webb       | 18,033     |
| Young (4), Park (18), <b>Berbatov</b> (19), De Gea, Fryers, Rafael, Hernandez         | Mark Halsey       | 25,700     |
| Fryers (6), Rooney (11), Macheda (17), De Gea, Rafael, Diouf, Welbeck                 | Phil Dowd         | 75,183     |
| Anderson (14), W Keane (21), Lindegaard, Fryers, Cole, Pogba, Diouf                   | Mike Dean         | 75,146     |
| Welbeck (9), Hernandez (13), Anderson (10), De Gea, Rafael, Pogba, Lingard            | Howard Webb       | 52,299     |
| Scholes (17), Anderson (19), De Gea, Evans, Rafael, Park, Hernandez                   | Chris Foy         | 46,808     |



yellow card red card captain penalties (15) Sub appearance and no. of player replaced

# Today's match

Keep your own record of the game's facts and stats



## Starting XI



## Starting XI

## Substitutes

## Substitutes

## Attendance

## Half-time score

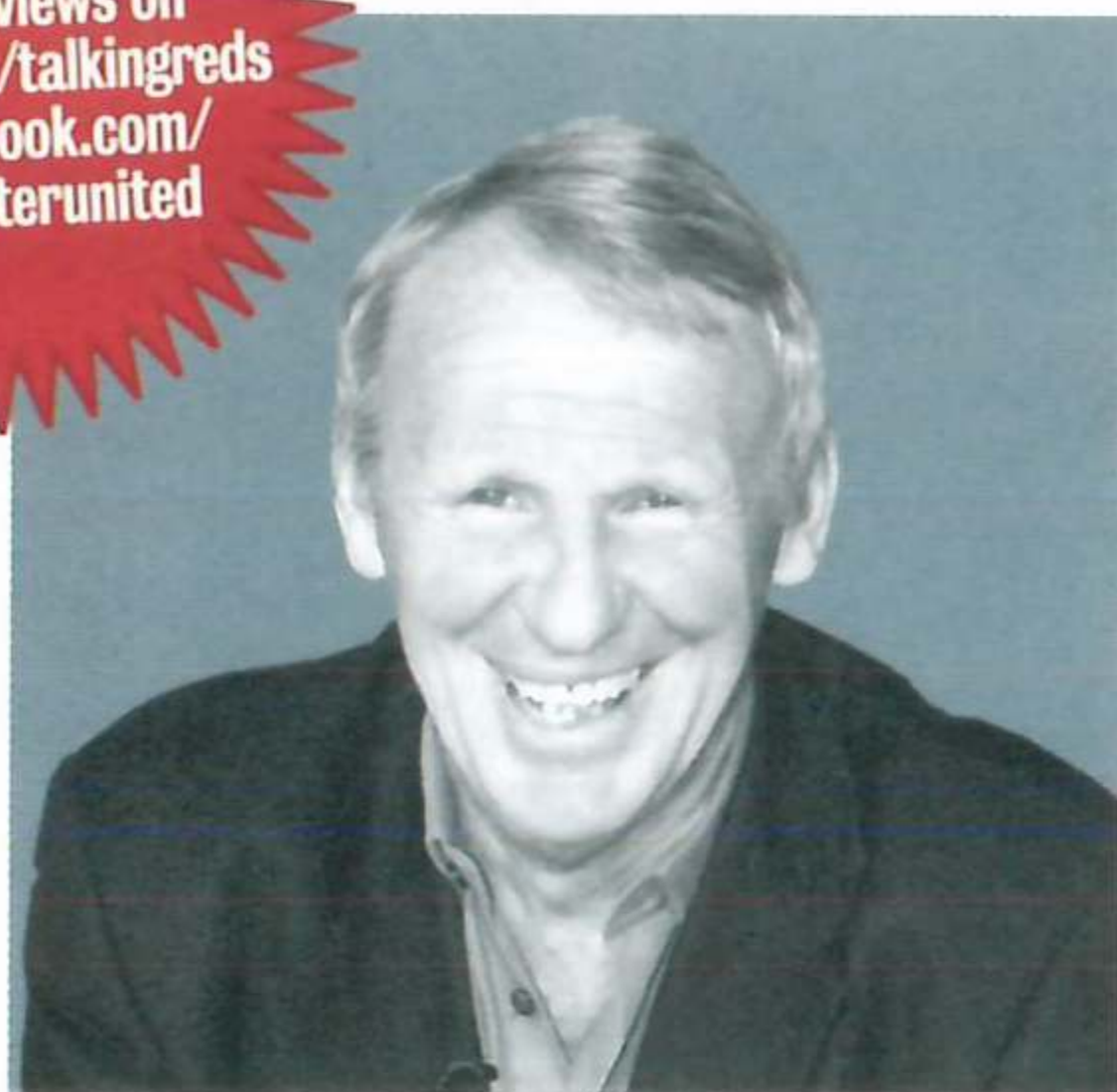
## Full-time score

## Goalscorers

## Man of the match



Agree with Paddy?  
Air your views on  
ManUtd.com/talkingreds  
and facebook.com/  
manchesterunited



## The last word



The Reds resisted  
City's Cup comeback  
last weekend

# PADDY CRERAND

*Cup win should have  
been a stroll, but we've  
bounced back and it's  
great to see Scholes again*

### "We should have won by more"

It was great to beat City in the Cup derby last week but I'm still disappointed it finished 3-2. Their players claimed the result was a moral victory and to a degree I can see why. Three-nil up at the break with United playing so well, everyone thought we'd avenge the 6-1 at the first attempt. But Roberto Mancini reorganised his side defensively so they would be difficult to break down, hoping to nick a goal or two. At Manchester United I don't think you can do that as the fans just want you to charge forward – which is what happened at Old Trafford when we let in those late goals. So it was a shame we didn't win more convincingly but it was still a boost after two league defeats – we showed we can beat City, being a goal up even before Vincent Kompany was sent off. I think we'll see that confidence from the lads again today.

### "Deserved awards"

It was great to see Wayne Rooney and Nemanja Vidic named in the FifPro World XI; both fully deserved their place. They were fantastic last year. Wayne showed that form at City last week and hopefully he can continue it for the rest of the season. But Vida is a big miss for us – you can see that in the eight goals we've conceded in the last three games, which is not the United way. You have to put it down to the constant changes that have been forced on us by injuries. Saying that, I'm confident that the defence will improve as soon as we get players fit and are able to line up with a settled back four.

### "We've shown we can recover"

Losing two games in a row always gets people outside Old Trafford reacting as if the world is about to end. Yet the way the manager deals with these situations is exceptional – he's so cool, calm and collected while others, even United fans, are panicking. It's inevitable that people should be disappointed and a bit worried when the team loses, but we've shown so many times over the years that we can recover – like the win at City. Prior to the Blackburn game we were on a good run and I'm confident we can go on another run like that. There's a tough spell of games coming up for United with trips to Arsenal and Chelsea, plus Liverpool twice. If we get through that run in touch at the top then we'll have a great chance.

### "It's great Scholesy's back"

I went into the pressroom an hour before kick-off at City and saw Scholesy's name up on the TV screen. I thought it was a wind-up. I'm not taking any credit for it but every time I'd seen him at Reserve games I'd ask him, 'Why aren't you playing?'. I'm delighted he's back. The older you get the more you miss playing football, and he's still fit enough to be playing, no question. In my day you were done by the time you got to 33 or 34, now you can play until you're 40. He won't play every minute of the season that's left, but he'll make an impact on the pitch and in the dressing room. He's made the right decision.



United's award winners  
are joined by PFA Chief  
Executive Gordon Taylor







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\*<sup>1</sup>As of September 2011. \*<sup>2</sup>Epson EH-TW6000W. \*<sup>3</sup>Source: Futuresource Consulting Ltd.





# Manchester United

1 David De Gea  
29 Tomasz Kuszczak  
34 Anders Lindegaard  
40 Ben Amos

3 Patrice Evra  
4 Phil Jones  
5 Rio Ferdinand  
6 Jonny Evans  
12 Chris Smalling  
15 Nemanja Vidic  
20 Fabio  
21 Rafael  
35 Reece Brown  
36 Marnick Vermijl  
38 Michael Keane  
39 Tom Thorpe  
51 Ezekiel Fryers

8 Anderson  
11 Ryan Giggs  
13 Ji-sung Park  
16 Michael Carrick  
17 Nani  
18 Ashley Young  
22 Paul Scholes  
23 Tom Cleverley  
24 Darren Fletcher  
25 Antonio Valencia  
28 Darron Gibson  
42 Paul Pogba  
49 Ravel Morrison  
50 Jesse Lingard  
52 Larnell Cole

7 Michael Owen  
9 Dimitar Berbatov  
10 Wayne Rooney  
14 Javier Hernandez  
19 Danny Welbeck  
32 Mame Biram Diouf  
48 Will Keane



# Bolton Wanderers

1 Adam Bogdan  
22 Jussi Jaaskelainen  
26 Robert Lainton

2 Gretar Rafn Steinsson  
3 Marcos Alonso  
4 Paul Robinson  
5 Gary Cahill  
12 Zat Knight  
15 Tyrone Mears  
18 Sam Ricketts  
25 Dedryck Boyata  
31 David Wheeler  
39 Joe Riley

6 Fabrice Muamba  
7 Chris Eagles  
8 Stuart Holden  
10 Martin Petrov  
11 Ricardo Gardner  
16 Mark Davies  
19 Nigel Reo-Coker  
21 Darren Pratley  
23 Sean Davis  
27 Chung-Yong Lee  
37 Josh Vela

9 Tuncay Sanli  
14 Kevin Davies  
17 Ivan Klasnic  
20 Robbie Blake  
24 David Ngog  
36 Michael O'Halloran

## Today's other fixtures

Aston Villa v Everton 3pm  
Blackburn v Fulham 3pm  
Chelsea v Sunderland 3pm  
Liverpool v Stoke 3pm  
Tottenham v Wolves 3pm  
West Brom v Norwich 3pm

## Next home match

United v Stoke City

**BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE**

Tuesday 31 January 2012

Kick-off: 8pm

## Emergency procedure

Manchester United and Greater Manchester Police have a very detailed evacuation procedure in place should the need arise. Regular supporters will know we frequently test our emergency tone.

In the event that the tone should be sounded in a real situation: Please remain in position and listen carefully to the announcement. Loudspeakers are located not only in the stands but in all concourse areas, toilets and outside the stadium. Whole stands, part stands or the entire stadium may be evacuated.

Depending on the nature of the incident, this may take place onto the playing area and out of the stadium. Our PA system operates on a zone-to-zone basis. It may be, therefore, that certain zones are affected but not others. In such an event our main attention will be focused on the zone concerned.

If you hear an announcement broadcast in an area other than your own you should ignore it and respond only to messages directed at your section. All spectators are asked to respond calmly but as quickly as possible. Part of our emergency evacuation policy is to make spectators aware of what is happening and to update this information as frequently as necessary.

## Smoking

In accordance with the Smoke Free England Regulations introduced on 1 July 2007 it is illegal to smoke in the stadium, including all four tunnels.

## Club charter

The Manchester United Club Charter outlines our services and commitment to all our supporters. To obtain a copy, phone 0161 868 8000 or visit [www.manutd.com](http://www.manutd.com). If you are still not satisfied with the response, you may write to the FA Premier League or the Football Association (depending on the issues) who operate their own procedures for handling complaints. If you are still not satisfied, you may wish to contact the Independent Football Ombudsman, whose website is: [www.theifo.co.uk](http://www.theifo.co.uk)

## 'Stamp It Out' Text Service

Help stamp out offensive behaviour inside Old Trafford. Anonymously text HELP to 60442 followed by the STAND, ROW and SEAT of the offender and then the nature of the problem.



5 027351 535208